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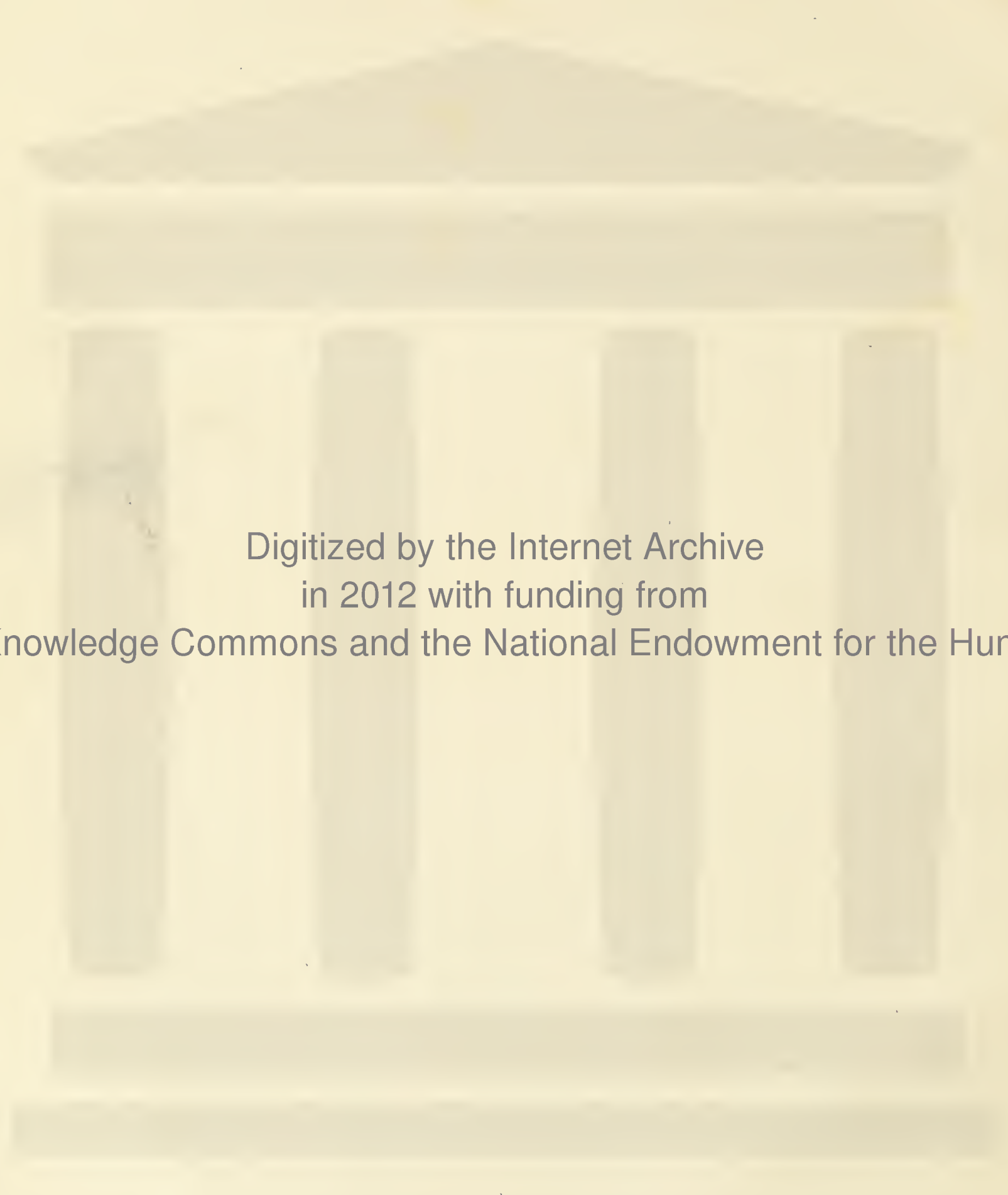
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THE
MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER:

CONTAINING

EXTRACTS FROM FOREIGN AND AMERICAN JOURNALS ;

A VARIETY OF LOCAL INTELLIGENCE ON SUBJECTS CONNECTED WITH MEDICINE ;

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED SURGEONS AND PHYSICIANS ;

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PRINCIPAL HOSPITALS ;

ORIGINAL ARTICLES ON VARIOUS DISEASES ;

WITH

CONCISE VIEWS OF THE IMPROVEMENTS AND DISCOVERIES

IN THE

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SCIENCES.

CONDUCTED BY JEROME V. C. SMITH, M. D.

Professor of General Anatomy and Physiology in the Berkshire Medical Institution.

VOL. II.

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BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 1824.

No. 1.

PROSPECTUS.

VOL. II.

There is a certain charm—an awakening power, in having presented to the eye or the understanding just enough of what is agreeable to excite the imagination and make us desire a full view, which has its effect on the dullest stolid in our race. Who that has seen a small portion of the veil lifted from the cheek of a nun, or the corner of a picture, but has felt within him a strong curiosity to lift it higher;—and what can better encourage a spirit of investigation among professional men, than frequently to present them with the earliest information of the discoveries which are daily making in their favourite science.

In Europe, medical newspapers have received ample support, and been useful, not only by making known at an early period every valuable improvement, but by exciting a spirit of research; and thus have they induced Physicians to keep pace with the advancement of their profession, who might else have remained in ignorance of the most important practical advantages which every year possesses over that which preceded it.

Great, however, and extensive as have been the benefits resulting from weekly medical papers in other countries, until the past year, a similar plan had never been adopted on this side the Atlantic. We then issued proposals for the Boston Medical Intelligencer, and the present number will commence the second volume of that work.

Our list of subscribers is already sufficient, not only to enable us to continue the publication, but to command sources of information which have been heretofore inaccessible by us; and we shall endeavour, in future numbers, to adopt a more systematic arrangement of our materials—to make a more careful selection—and to introduce a greater variety of editorial articles.

It is here necessary to remark, that, when first proposed, our paper was designed for the inspection of medical gentlemen only;—we find that its circulation is more *general* than had been anticipated, and shall henceforth exclude every article which would render its perusal by *any one* improper or unpleasant.

The price will be *two dollars a year*, payable in advance. Gentlemen who will favour us with their subscription will please address to JOHN CORTON, Proprietor, Boston, to whom all communications must be directed, *post-paid*.

OBSERVATIONS.

MAY.

A greater number of diseases are contracted, and there are more deaths in our climate during the three months of spring, than in any other season of the year. Epidemics seldom prevail to a great extent at this season, but diseases which are produced by the *natural changes*,

and not the *morbid constitution* of the atmosphere, are exceedingly common. Few persons who have a predisposition to inflammatory affections of the throat or lungs, to asthma, rheumatism, or disorders of the skin, escape without an attack, unless they use constant precautions. The frost of winter produces a dryness in the air, which renders its coldness both salutary and agreeable;—but when, as in spring, the heat is just sufficient to dissolve the frost and set free the waters which had been locked up for many months, but not intense enough to *heat* the air, we have that combination of cold and moisture which checks the perspiration, confines within the system a vast quantity of matter which should have been evacuated by the pores of the skin, causes oppression of internal organs, and inflammatory affections of the mucous membranes.—All these evils are aggravated by the easterly winds, which are not only generally prevalent, but peculiarly disagreeable at this season; for before they reach us, they pass over a large tract of the ocean, and their solvent power upon the water is astonishingly great.

Thoroughly to avoid the ill effects of all these fruitful causes of disease, is, we believe, impossible; but many of them may be escaped by carefully guarding against exposure. From the first of March to the first of June, in our climate, the clothing should be as warm as in midwinter, and it is particularly necessary that this circumstance should be mentioned at the present moment, since we are too apt to lay aside our winter garments before they can be dispensed with without danger to the health.

To adapt the dress with scrupulous nicety to the fluctuations of temperature every day, would require a minuteness of attention which few persons could be persuaded to bestow; but every one may observe the general rule here given, and thus, with little trouble, be protected from the pernicious influence of sudden changes in the weather.

INSANITY

AS CONNECTED WITH JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

It is a matter of importance as well as of singular interest to investigate the sources from whence the popular feeling and intelligence concerning madness have been derived; or in other words, the foundations for the opinions of the generality of persons, on the subject of insanity. Patient inquiry, daily communication with deranged persons, and attentive observation of their habits, confer the means of judging on medical practitioners, and more especially on those, who for a series of years, solely confined their practice to this department of the profession. The information of the lawyer is principally deduced from the writings of those great legal authorities to which he refers with confidence—although these grave authorities have laid down *no definition of madness*, nor given any directions how to discover it. The ordinary class of persons, who are usually summoned to act as jurymen, and who are sufficiently virtuous and intel-

ligent, have in common with the mass of mankind, formed their opinions of the state of mind which is denominated madness, and it should be observed that such opinions are not very easily removed or altered. It will be a curious and instructive inquiry, to investigate the circumstances which have, in all probability, contributed to fix their notions on the subject of insanity. They have wanted the means of direct information, and consequently have adopted the popular and floating opinions on this disease.—That dramatic representations have forcibly operated for this purpose there is little reason to doubt; and some of the plays of Shakspeare exhibit many of the forms which this malady is supposed to assume. Among such characters, none have more strongly fastened on the general mind, than the outrageous Lear, and the distracted Ophelia; the subtle craziness of Hamlet, leaves it doubtful if his alienation of mind be real, or conveniently assumed—and to the ordinary observer conveys more of fiction, than the avowed counterfeit of Edgar.

Romances, the literary food of the idle and thoughtless, abound in descriptions of intellectual calamity;—but these artificers of fancy, like many unskilful performers, are too prone to strain the loftier impressions of feeling, and distort the energies of passion, into mental derangement.—Something of affecting interest may be excited by the weaknesses and wanderings of Sterne's Maria, but Cervantes has exhibited the happiest and most correct picture of systematic insanity; although the vehicle of chivalry in which it is conveyed, has, to our own countrymen, blunted its interest as a physiological portrait of madness:—his sallies have provoked mirth, and so keen is the relish for the ridiculous, that in the luxury of laughter, the reader has forgotten the tribute of commiseration.

Within my own recollection, Bethlem Hospital gratified the curiosity of the vulgar of both sexes; these visitors were most eager to penetrate into the recesses of the furious and naked maniac; the hideous howlings of those violently affected, forcibly arrested their attention. With the insane of a milder cast, they were but slightly interested; except the singularity of their actions, or incoherence of discourse were calculated to excite their merriment. They were much delighted with the archness of retort and ridiculous buffoonery which often forms a striking feature in the character of the insane. They were particularly gratified at the manner in which they frequently ornament their persons: a straw crown or sword of the same material, pleasingly occupied their attention;—but they passed over the silent and melancholic, and usually retired with the impression, that the quiet and orderly were convalescent, or improperly confined. To impress ordinary persons with the existence of insanity, some prominent and strongly marked features are absolutely required; as the popular feeling and intelligence concerning madness is the result of those glaring exhibitions, those caricatures of disease which the stage represents or romances propagate. Of methodical

madness, of systematic perversion of intellect, the multitude can form no adequate conception, and cannot be persuaded that insanity exists without turbulent expression, extravagant gesture, or fantastic decoration. The converse of this has likewise, not unfrequently obtained, even among those who might be supposed to possess superior information. Hesitation of speech—nervous and convulsive affections—uncouth gestures resembling St. Vitus' dance—absence of mind—dulness in comprehending a question, with tediousness and embarrassment in affording the reply, have often induced the mistaken supposition that the party was insane.

(To be continued.)

DISORDERS OF LITERARY MEN.

A man who is devoted to the cultivation of letters is too apt to forget that the soundness of his understanding depends much on the vigour of his bodily powers; he regards the application of the means necessary to preserve the latter, as a comparatively tiresome and forbidding employment, and dreams far more of the success he anticipates or the glory to which he aspires, than of the care he ought to bestow upon his *health*—the first and most desirable of all blessings, and that which alone can give a zest to the enjoyment of any others.

The sad effects of this error, which have been too often exemplified and lamented in our immediate neighbourhood, have induced us to commence a series of observations, the object of which will be to point out to our literary friends the manner in which their habits interfere with the natural operations of life and health, and the method by which their studies may be pursued without injury to their corporeal strength.—With this end in view, we shall first give a general sketch of the manner in which the disorders of men of letters are induced, and afterwards a minute and physiological analysis of their causes, and the way in which they may be avoided. The execution of this plan will occupy a part of several successive numbers of our paper, and we shall attend to it with the more interest, since we are certain that no stronger motive than the conviction of the understanding can be offered to those who are not only the possessors, but the professed admirers of intellect.

VETERINARY MEDICINE.

A merciful man is merciful to his beast, says the old adage, and surely so noble and useful an animal as the Horse, deserves, next to his fellow man, the care and attention of every individual endowed with feelings of benevolence and gratitude. Although the practice of veterinary surgery has ever been confined, in this country, to the ignorant and the illiterate, there have always been those in our profession whose extensive observation and liberal views have led them to examine, with great interest, the anatomical structure of the horse, and the diseases to which that animal is subject. It is not many weeks since we were gratified by hearing a gentleman enumerate, among the many virtues of the late Dr. L****, of this city, who was one of the best men and most distinguished physicians our country ever produced, that he took a peculiar pride in prescribing for the complaints of that animal; and we would recommend this trait in the character of Dr. L. as worthy not only of great praise, but of general imitation.

Most of the diseases to which horses are liable at this season, may be prevented by occasional doses of diaphoretic medicines. For this purpose, we advise a table-spoonful of the following mixture to be given night and morning in a mash of scalded bran, or a feed of corn moistened with cold water.

R. Croc. Antimon.
Nitr. Potassæ,
Sup. Tart. Potassæ,
Flor. Sulph. ā ā ʒ iv. M. & pulv.

When a horse is kept on a dry diet, whether he is in the stable or travels on the road, the foregoing medicine, properly administered, will keep his body cool and healthy, cause him to cast his coat early, and give the new one a peculiarly beautiful and silky lustre.

HORTICULTURE.

As most of the medical gentlemen who are fortunate enough to be settled out of the *pale* of the city, and not, like ourselves, destined to labour through the debilitating and sultry months of summer without even tasting the *delice* of rural life, have an opportunity, and, we trust, an inclination to pursue a path in which their professional knowledge and local habitation may assist each other, we propose to devote a small part of our paper, during the spring and summer months, to subjects relating to Horticulture. Remarks relative to the cultivation of *officinal* plants will be occasionally included in this portion; and we earnestly solicit our brethren who are blest with a garden, to spare no time or trouble in making such use of it as must be most productive of benefit and amusement to themselves, and of credit to the profession generally.

For ourselves, we can conceive of no occupation more congenial or more honourable to the feelings, than such an one as affords an opportunity of watching and admiring the progress of external nature. The fond mother marks, not only with assiduity, but with delight, the gradual developement of the various powers of her tender offspring; and it is a similar, but less selfish emotion, which is excited by tracing the successive and wonderful advancement of vegetation: and if there is any thing in our professional pursuits which tends to make us unmindful of our religious duties, as some have ventured to assert, this tendency cannot be more effectually obviated, than by a constant observation of those phenomena which must ever result in a thorough conviction of the infinite power and unsearchable wisdom of Him who is the *AUTHOR OF NATURE*.

TO CHOOSE THE BEST SOIL FOR A GARDEN.

The best soil for a garden is a sandy loam, not less than two feet deep; the earth should not be of a binding nature in summer, nor retentive of rain in winter; but of such a texture, that it can be worked without difficulty, in any season of the year. There are few sorts of fruit-trees, or esculent vegetables, which require less depth of earth to grow in, than two feet, to bring them to perfection, and the soil of the officinal garden should be three or more feet deep; for if the roots of most plants, when in a state of maturity, be minutely traced, they will be found to penetrate into the earth, in search of food, to the depth of two feet, provided the soil be of a nature to allow it. A garden should be made on land whose bottom is not of a springy wet nature. If this rule can be observed, draining will be unnecessary; for when land is well prepared for the growth of fruit-trees, and officinal plants, by trenching, manuring, and digging, it is by these means brought into such a porous temperament, that the rains pass through it without being detained longer than necessary. If the land of a garden be of too strong a nature, it will be much improved by the admixture of sand.

REPORTS.

FEIGNED BLINDNESS.

A young conscript to the corps blockading Luxemburg, having passed the night at the advanced posts, declared himself blind in the morning, and was sent to the hospital. The surgeons used the most powerful remedies, and were convinced the disease was feigned, as the pupil contracted perfectly well. He assured them, however, that he could not see, thanked them for their care of him, and asked for the application of new remedies. He was then sent to the superior medical officers at Thionville. They were also convinced it was fraud, but having heard the course which had been pursued, they determined on a new trial. He was put on the bank of a river, and ordered to walk forward. He did so, and fell into the water, from which he was immediately taken by two boatmen, stationed there for the purpose.

Convinced of his blindness, but unable to explain the dilatation and contraction of the pupil, the surgeon gave him a discharge, but warned him that if his disease was feigned, it would prove of no avail, as it would soon be detected. They then offered him another, if he would confess the fraud. At first he hesitated; but being at length assured that they would keep their word, he took up a book and read. The proof of this case, says Fodère, would have been complete if he had been put on the edge of a precipice, where he might know that nothing could prevent his destruction. But what, he asks, if he had been really blind!

We are indebted for the following communication to the surgeon who visited the patient. From motives of delicacy, names and residence are suppressed. As such rash deeds as cutting the throat are frequently resorted to by the partially deranged, a young practitioner might feel unnecessarily embarrassed when suddenly called in at so important a moment; and we have been induced to publish this case, from the circumstance of its being a fair example of such wounds, rather than from any particular importance that is attached to the method of dressing, or the subsequent curative process. The subject of this case had previously attempted to terminate his existence.

ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE.

Feb. 11th, 1824, J. C., labourer, æt. 40, of good constitution, without any previous symptoms of insanity, was accidentally discovered by the side of a rock, at a distance from any house, with a wound across his neck, four inches in length, and one and a half above the clavicles. The trachea was almost divided, consequently the air passed freely to and from the lungs through the wound. In attempting to commit suicide, he made two incisions with a razor, (which was found by his side); blood flowed in a full stream; he turned himself nearly with his face to the ground, and fainted. The day was rainy, with a high wind: being exposed to both, five hours, in this inclement season, he suffered much, as he was thoroughly wet with rain and blood. At 4, P. M. he was taken to a house, and his wound dressed as follows:—I passed four interrupted sutures through the integuments, brought the edges of the wound in contact, and placed strips

of adhesive plaster transversely over the divided surface, over which was laid a compress and a bandage over it; he was then put into bed, and by assiduous attention and perseverance, became comfortably warm by 2 o'clock, A. M. He was so much reduced by the hemorrhage, and chilled with cold, that he was supposed to be dead before his wound was dressed.

Feb. 12.—Discharge of a serous fluid with blood has separated most of the plasters; air passes out of the wound; no pain; complains of weakness only; takes a laxative which operates.

13th.—Plasters separated by discharge; air passes out of the wound, the edges of which are inflamed; swallows soups, milk and water, &c. without much inconvenience.

14th.—Wound very sore, considerably swelled, and discharges pus in abundance; air passes this day through the wound, but not any afterwards; brought his head forward and confined it, to bring the divided part of the trachea in contact as much as possible.

20th.—Wound heals rapidly; uses his voice in speaking for the first time since his injury; appetite good; strength improving; ligatures are taken out.

April 20th.—He has nearly recovered his strength. is able to walk several miles without much fatigue.

REVIEW.

An abstract and analysis of those causes which favour and impede the progress of medicine. By SAMUEL COLHOUN, M. D. Editor of the Medical Recorder, published at Philadelphia.

In the last number of his valuable publication, Dr. Colhoun has given a general view of an interesting subject that demands far greater consideration. Notwithstanding the lofty tone of his discourse, and the rich display of historical knowledge which has been ingeniously interwoven with the thesis, we frankly confess that we are among those who believe that medicine has been majestically advancing, from the remotest era,—and that the causes which have been assigned as so many formidable barriers to check its progress, in the civilized world, instead of having in the least degree operated against its progression, have obviously been the certain, and not inscrutable means, of giving a decided character to the science. It is in a great degree by the influence of error, that truth has been elicited, on most of the important points of general science; hence, the development of many facts, and the rationale of many interesting phenomena, which otherwise would have remained in eternal obscurity, have been the high rewards of persevering research. The human mind possesses a kind of intuitive conception of simple truth, but the moment a breath of doubt agitates the calm surface of plain reality, the intellectual faculties are excited to increased activity. There is a wide distinction between old truth and old hypothesis; the one gains splendour and solidity by age, while the farrago of absurdity, like the forgotten names of its inventors, moulders in the neglected archives of inglorious toil.—In opposition, however, to these sentiments, our author commences with the broad assertion that

“Whilst astronomy, natural philosophy, and chemistry, advance rapidly to perfection, from the exact and rigorous methods by which they are prosecuted, medicine, though more directly subserving the great inter-

ests of our species, still wanders in a labyrinth of uncertainty.”

The illustrations of the causes which have produced this defect, are introduced by some observations on the nature of cause and effect, and of hypothesis and theory. Passing over these remarks, we proceed to give a sketch of the obstacles held forth by Dr. C. as impeding the march of medical science.

“The pride and vanity attendant on public stations and great celebrity, have continued to augment the errors of science. Men of extensive fame glory in pretending to see deeper into the recesses of nature, than nature herself ever intended: they invent hypotheses; they build theories, and distort facts to suit these aerial creations.” p. 242.

“The susceptible character of youth, in adopting the crude suggestions or ingenious follies of their teachers, lead also to error.” p. 242.

“A more fruitful source of the errors of the scientific world, is derived from that disposition, which induces explanations of the phenomena of nature, by principles drawn from subjects with which the mind is more familiar. This mode of philosophy has been of extensive evil in medicine. During the prevalence of the mechanical, chemical, and mathematical systems of philosophy, all the changes of the body were referred to them: the doctrines of Keil, Paracelsus, and Borelli, who attempted to explain the phenomena of life by the sciences with which they were most conversant, still remain conspicuous instances of this error. During the prevalence of chemistry in the age of Louis XIV, vast labour was bestowed in analyzing vegetable remedies, from the belief that the diseases of the human body were produced by an acid or an alkali, which was supposed to pervade the system, and that it was necessary to discover which of these principles every remedy possessed. This folly was relinquished, after finding that the most noxious and the most innocent substances were composed of the same ultimate materials; that the poison of the viper and gum arabic owed their qualities to the various disposition of the same elementary substances; and it is no later than the conclusion of the last century, that the most enlightened physicians explained many of the phenomena of life, on the supposition of the presence of too large a quantity of oxygen in the system; the late revival of the use of the magnet in the cure of tic-doloureux, rheumatism, &c. by some of the most able physicians of Europe may, with propriety, be referred to the same disposition of mind to be directed and biassed in its pursuits, by the fashions of science. Other branches of knowledge obey the same influence.” p. 243-4.

“It is said that mystery of explanation, as it entices youth to study, has a high beneficial effect. That it has great power over the mind, is clearly proved from the fascination it throws around the modern tales of fiction, and the great effect it gives to the character of freemasonry, an institution which has been of extensive benefit, and under the direction of bad principles has done much mischief in the world. The same cause increased the celebrity, influence, and effect of the elegant letters of Junius, which kept in a state of alarm the jealousy of British liberty; and the story of the man in the iron mask, on the same principle, gave interest to an incident little more important to mankind than an idle Arabian tale.

“The errors produced by one extreme, induce mankind to embrace the contrary. In the early ages of every science, occult qualities claim great attention.—Among savages, every phenomenon of nature is supposed to be produced by spirits, which have their residence in the bodies which they move. As philosophy advances, these imaginary creations are rejected, and every thing is supposed to be the result of natural causes; and thus from the extreme of superstition, they pass into atheism.” p. 245-6.

“This disposition to pursue extremes, applies particularly to the adoption of new remedies. When a medicine has been too much extolled, opinion, weakened by habit, and by the current of fashion directed to other remedies, at length discards it altogether.” p. 247.

“The passions of physicians have proved of essential detriment to the advancement of their art. This point is so evident, that it hardly requires discussion. The disputes between the followers of the Grecian and the

Arabian physicians, occupied a great part of the sixteenth century; those of the followers of Galen and Paracelsus were equally warm, and equally futile.” p. 247.

“The errors, which arise out of the use of improper language, are equally extensive.” p. 248.

We fully agree with our learned and distinguished author, that all these obstacles have fallen in the way of the advancement of science, but would ask if they are not such as the very nature of the human mind and human society renders unavoidable; and if they have not produced a reaction favourable rather than injurious to the discovery of truth!

Does not the glory which men of extensive fame take in being thought to see deeper than their neighbours into the recesses of nature, render them more indefatigable in their endeavours to gain an extended celebrity? and does not the very head and front of their pretensions induce young men of talents and ambition to seek for that knowledge which will give them similar pretensions and equal celebrity?—Does not the same respect for their preceptors which induces young men to adopt their opinions, lead them to search for arguments to defend them, and in this search do they not often find that those sentiments are founded in error which they had been taught to believe indisputable?—Have not the absent results of almost every attempt to explain the operation of medicines on the system by the specific and known qualities of the articles, been the means of setting in a strong light the error of the principles on which such explanations were founded?—Has not the disposition to pursue extremes, kept alive the spirit and activity of the mind, and led to those profound researches and numerous experiments which are the surest tests of truth and error?—Is not the inconvenience which medical men experience from the want of an uniform nomenclature, leading to the adoption of names and terms, the etymology of which is founded in a language universally understood by men of science in every country on the globe? & are we not indebted, in a great measure, to this prevailing uncertainty, for a book which has recently appeared in England, and been reprinted in this city, which not only contains the most perfect system of nosology ever published, but which is in itself a manual and library for a physician.

These suggestions we make in illustration of the principles expressed by us in the first part of this article; but still we cannot too highly recommend the careful perusal of the paper of Dr. C., which is full of learning, and written in a strain of eloquence which every reader of taste must relish and admire.

The closing remarks of this dissertation are intended to show that although the human mind is liable to be perverted, it is yet the great instrument of advancing science, and the means of every most exalted improvement in our race.

“The dawn of civilization was first perceived in the east; the kingdom of Babylon was for a time the seat of the arts, the sciences, and the splendour of the world. The nations upon the borders of the Mediterranean, received its light, and Egypt prepared, in a gloomy superstition, the frames of the governments of Greece, and laid upon extensive foundations the empire of Rome; a mighty structure, which, after overshadowing for many ages the surrounding nations, gradually fell to ruin, amidst the trophies of victory, the refinements of luxury, and the monuments of grandeur. Europe displays an assemblage of states no less magnificent.—In that distinguished portion of the globe, the circle of power enlarges beyond the knowledge of any former period, and opens to the view a series of results, the termination of which, promises to be too extraordinary

for the most sanguine imagination to conceive. These are the creations of the human mind: but they decay, and from this circumstance we derive additional evidence of its august character: for whilst kingdoms pass away, wealth and power disappear, and the monuments of victory are obscured by the new successions of history, the works of the mind alone are imperishable. The hero, the statesman, and the philosopher, retain their places in the intellectual repository of nations, after the theatre of kingdoms on which they appear, has passed away. The majesty of Caesar would have been characterised, in the dark and bloody qualities of Sylla or of Marius, if a mind equally remarkable for elegance of taste, sublimity of purpose, and contempt of danger, had not raised him to the highest seat of Roman fame, given unrivalled splendour to the career of his successes, and concealed in glory, the fields of desolation through which it laid.

The title of great, is appropriated only to men of distinguished minds. Alexander, Pompey, Alfred, and Charlemagne, would probably in this distant age be unnoticed, if extraordinary talents, exalted enthusiasm for knowledge, or a desire of extensive usefulness had not consecrated their names. Men of more imperishable fame are discovered upon the surface of history. The genius of Bacon rises in new grandeur on the discoveries, which in bright reversion from its sepulchre, it daily calls into existence; Homer, still the giant of his art, clothes Greece in new splendour; Shakespeare confirms morality, by hideous pictures of vice, and strong delineations of virtue, and transmits the character of his nation to distant ages. Milton by his numbers stays the influence of religion over nations sinking in licentiousness, and proclaims the triumph of genius, when enlisted in the service of human nature." 249-50.

INTELLIGENCE.

In 1760, there was a man brought to Avignon, who was a lithophagus. He not only swallowed flints $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length and an inch broad, but marbles of different sizes. Stones ground into powder and made into a paste was his most agreeable food. He swallowed 25 flints in one day. He was found, three years before, by a Dutch ship, on an uninhabited island. His teeth were unusually large and strong, and his saliva very corrosive. The flints, when voided, were diminished in size and weight. He slept in a sitting posture, 12 hours together, and when awake, smoked incessantly. He would eat raw flesh, if plentifully mixed with gravel, but no bread, and drink large quantities of strong brandy.

An itinerant lunatic woman, near Swanden, in Kent, Eng. threw herself into a well, near 50 feet deep, at the bottom of which was about five feet of water. She no sooner found her situation wet, watery, and painful, than she began to cry out for help. A ladder being put down, she ascended it of her own accord, to the astonishment of those who witnessed the occurrence, without having received the least injury. What makes this singular accident the more extraordinary is, that she has regained the entire use of her mental faculties.

A quack, who had been practising in West-Union, Ohio, was recently drummed out of town by the physicians. Were the regular practitioners of Boston to make a similar effort to clear the city of empirics, there would be great danger of being overpowered by numbers!

MUSCULAR IRRITABILITY: A few weeks ago, a headless duck, who had just suffered under the amputating knife of a journeyman to Mr. Davis, poulterer, at the top of Fleet market, London, flew in at the window of a hackney coach that was passing at the moment, and alighting in the lap of a lady, filled it with blood, and her bosom with alarm.

The Mayor of Toulouse has given notice that, on account of an extraordinary circumstance, and being desirous to prevent the sad consequences likely to result from too great a number of dogs, which crowd

into the town, from the country, he will cause poison to be spread in all the streets for five days. *Could all sane quadrupeds and bipeds be forbidden to eat of the said poison, we could justly admire the wisdom of the decree.*

CHLORINE, as a medicinal agent, seems to be marching rapidly into popular favour among the faculty. Mr. H. Scott, in the 8th volume of the Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, recommends the internal and external use of the nitro muriatic acid in diseases of the liver, and many other affections. We have since found it very efficacious in several cases of hepatic disease in which we have been induced to use it by the recommendation of Mr. Scott. Mr. S. thinks that the effects of calomel and corrosive sublimate are to be attributed to the chlorine they contain.

Dr. Brown employs chlorine in solution in cases of scarlet fever, and has found it eminently successful.—From a tea-spoonful to a table-spoonful is given every 2 or 3 hours, and it is more easily swallowed than mucilaginous drinks, when that disease is accompanied by a soreness of the throat. The quantity given should be diminished as the disease declines, and from 2 to 5 ounces is the quantity usually required to effect a cure.

OIL OF TURPENTINE has been recently introduced among the remedies for sciatic neuralgia, and with good success.

IODINE has been successfully used in a case of bronchocele, where the tumour was the size of an orange. It was administered for a few months both externally and internally.

EXTRACT OF COFFEE has been found efficacious in relieving whooping-cough. The strong decoction of the same article is also used in pertussis by some German physicians.

PLUGGING was recently resorted to with success in a case, which occurred to us, of hemorrhage from extracting the first molar tooth. The substance used was dry sponge. The patient was a delicate young female.—She had lost about two pints of blood, and all the most powerful styptics, and the actual cautery had been tried without effect.

BLISTERS IN EPISTAXIS are extremely useful and too much neglected. They should be applied on the back of the neck.

BRONCHOTOMY was lately performed with success by Drs. Ezra Bartlett, of Haverhill, N. H. and Calvin Jewett, of Newbury, Vt. on a little girl, the daughter of Mr. Jeffrey A. Bailey, of the last named town. Cadaverous complexion, difficulty of breathing, &c. indicated the immediate approach of death. The physicians, on examining the patient, were of opinion that there was an obstruction in the windpipe; an incision into the throat was made by Dr. Jewett, and about half of a raw bean was taken from the windpipe. The breath of the child was restored.

SMALL-POX prevails at York, Me. Five deaths occurred week before last, and from 15 to 20 more were then suffering under the disease. A later report says that six more have died. This fatal disease is also prevailing at Charleston, S. C. and a strict examination is made of all vessels before they are permitted to enter.

Joseph A. Gallup, M. D. President of the Vermont Medical Society, is engaged in a warm newspaper dispute with several gentlemen in Woodstock, Vt. who have accused him of improper conduct in refusing to reduce the fractured leg of a pauper, without security for the fee, before commencing the operation. From our knowledge of the doctor's general character, we are led to believe he has been unjustly treated.

Asa Burbank, M. D. Professor of Obstetrics in the Berkshire Medical Institution, has resigned his professorship. The trustees will meet for the purpose of a new election, in the course of a few weeks.

Dr. Anderson, we understand, performed the operation of lithotomy, at Amherst, Mass. on Thursday last.

We are happy to learn that the eminent Dr. Hosack, of New-York, has just published, in two handsome octavo volumes, his "Essays on various subjects of Medical Science," composed and printed at different times since 1794.

The Censors of the Massachusetts Medical Society for the first medical district of the state, will hold a meeting for the examination of candidates for the practice of medicine and surgery, at the Medical College, Mason St. on Thursday, the 27th of May, at half past 3 o'clock, P. M. Gentlemen who intend offering themselves for examination, are requested by the secretary to apply previous to the meeting of the censors.

At a meeting of the Medical Convention of Connecticut, at New-Haven, on the 12th inst. the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—THOMAS HUBBARD, M. D. President; ELI LIVES, M. D. Vice-President; JOHN S. PETERS, M. D. Treasurer; JONATHAN KNIGHT, M. D. Secretary; WILLIAM BUEL, M. D., THOMAS MINER, M. D., WARREN R. FOWLER, M. D. Examining Committee.

Medical books are continually selling at auction in this city, at the most reduced prices, often for less than the cost of binding. We mention this for the advantage of those gentlemen who are fitting up medical libraries. In the course of a few months, a complete assortment might be obtained, at a third part of their real value.

An opportunity is offered to any gentleman, qualified by law to practise medicine and surgery in this state, to establish himself in a pleasant country town, 36 miles from Boston. Applications must be directed, *post-paid*, to the editor.

A distinguished medical gentleman, in this vicinity, who formerly resided in the family of the celebrated Dr. Fothergill, of London, has kindly offered to write the minute particulars of his life, for the columns of the *Intelligencer*. The memoir will probably bring many interesting items to light, in relation to the character of that great man, that have never yet been published.

A copy of any medical work published in the United States will be gratefully received from the author, if sent as soon as it comes from the press—as it is our intention to notice, as far as possible, every thing connected with American medical literature.

We shall give, next week, an analysis of an address delivered by Ariel Mann, M. D. before the Medical Society of Maine.

Communications to the *Medical Intelligencer* from abroad, we should be happy to receive early in the week. Any gentleman wishing our first volume, can procure it at this office.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Ending May 6th, from the Health-Office Returns.

May 1.—Elizabeth Ann Weller, 10 mo.; Sybel Stone; Phebe Dorr, 42; Asher L. Mansfield, 33. 2.—Ann Turner, 76; William Milburn, 13; Mary Patio, 3. 3.—Catharine Grady, 4; Mary Hussey, 82. 4.—Betsey Cunningham, 37; Benj. Smith, 5 mo.; James H. Osgood, 41; Hannah Herrick, 44; Lucy Everett, 56; Rosannah Clark, 5; ——— Rains, Stephen Chappum; Thomas Glander; two children of D. O'Neil. 5.—William Delano, 37. 6.—Ann White, 80; ——— Doan.

ENDING MAY 13TH.

May 6.—Nathan Parker, 55; George Stoker, 23. 7.—Edward Mc Hugh, 26; Robert Barker, 11. 8.—Stephen C. Ingalls, 13 mo.; ——— Barnard. 10.—Edward Burr, 2 weeks. 11.—William Lewis, 31; Mary Dwight Beal, 3 days; William Dodd, 69; Thomas Pook, 36. 12.—Joseph Whipple, 47; Ann Sprague; Nathaniel Wright; Elizabeth Harrison, 71. 13.—Elijah Utley, 40; ——— Leighman.

Dropsy in Head. 2—*Dropsy,* 1—*Debility,* 1—*Old Age,* 5—*Insanity,* 1—*Worms,* 1—*Consumption,* 6—*Mortification of a Burn,* 1—*Stillborn,* 5—*Drowned,* 1—*Disorders of Bowels,* 2—*Fits,* 1—*Gout,* 1—*Intemperance,* 1—*Lung-Fever,* 1—*Unknown,* 9.

Died, at St. Thomas, W. Indies, Dr. Thomas Blair. At N. York, Dr. Edward E. Davis, aged 68. In Westminster, Mass. Silas Pierson, M. D.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, MAY 25, 1824.

No. 2.

REPORTS.

WOUNDS BY CANNON-BALLS.

By Dr A. TROWBRIDGE, Watertown, Jefferson co. N.Y.

A soldier at Sacket's Harbour, May 29, 1813, received a wound, by a six pound ball, on the right side of the jaw, carrying away the greatest part of the orbicular, zygomatic, buccinator muscles, the upper and lower portion of the sphincter of the mouth, and all the muscles covering the upper and lower jaw, and those attached to the lower portion of the orbits of the eyes: both of these bones, and that of the nose and palate, both eyes, the ethmoid bone, and part of the septum of the nose, were carried away, the tongue principally, and all the lower teeth. The muscles on the opposite side were torn from the bones, and turned back, covering the side of the neck. He was found rolling on the ground, and supposed to be in a dying state; he was carried with several others in a similar condition, to barracks.—May 30th, 6, A. M. he had regular pulse, and sense: I dressed him, and removed the torn portions of muscles and integuments. In doing this, I divided the facial artery of the left side of the face, and tied it; the glottis and remaining portion of tongue appeared. By a tea-spoon he was able to swallow a tea-cup full of milk. The sound integuments were brought over the exposed parts as much as possible, and the whole covered with strips of lint, leaving an aperture for breathing. In the course of this day he was removed to the infirmary, and placed on a mattress. He took wine, water, and food, was dressed occasionally, was tolerably quiet and comfortable till the fifth day, when the whole head was much inflamed, he became convulsed, and died suddenly. From the time he was received into the infirmary, till he was convulsed, he retained his hearing and senses, knew what was said, and answered by motions of the hands.

At the siege of Fort Erie, 1815, a soldier of the 21st Regt. Infantry, received a wound by an eighteen pound ball, that carried away the left leg, near the external trochanter; the bone and nearly all the muscles were divided except the vastus internus, and a portion of integuments that covered it; these were immediately separated with the knife. There was but little hemorrhage from arteries. The mangled portions of muscles were cut off, and the bone saved as high as possible; the femoral artery was secured by a ligature. The patient recovered after many weeks of tedious pain and distress, some spasms and suppuration. The stump was sound within three months.

MORBID ANATOMY.

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer, By REUEL BARROWS, M. D. of Fryeburg, Me.

J. M. of Conway, N. H. æt. 56 years, of a slender constitution, and a remarkably feeble and effeminate voice, had been occasionally troubled with *dysuria* for six years. He was the father of seven or eight children, was by occupation a tailor, generally found but little difficulty in pur-

suage his business, and seldom applied for medical aid until a few months previous to his death.

Immediately after he first felt any symptom of his complaint, the vesica became quite distended, and from this time to his death, a period of about six years, he had the appearance *femine id graviditate multum progressæ*. I saw him for the first time about eight or ten days before his death, when I was called on by the physician to assist in passing the catheter. I found him much emaciated, with a feeble and frequent pulse, no appetite, bowels much swollen, and the process of digestion interrupted. After introducing the catheter, without the expected result, I endeavoured to remove any obstruction there might be in the little orifices of the instrument, by applying suction. The desired effect not being produced, I withdrew this and introduced another catheter, of larger size; but this expedient, altering the position of the patient, and the situation of the instrument, were equally fruitless. An elastic substance could be distinctly felt at the inner extremity of the catheter, and there was great pressure upon the neck of the vesica, which rendered the introduction of the instrument difficult. Diuresis, however, afterwards occurred, though cathartics and emetics were administered without effect.

DISSECTION. Twelve hours after his death, I examined him; found the vesica rather smaller than the usual size, very muscular, and apparently healthy; discovered also a large cyst, occupying a place between the vesica and rectum. After applying a ligature to the neck of the vesica, to retain its contents, I dissected out that organ, the cyst, and a small portion of the rectum. These weighed 6 lb. 2 oz. The form of the cyst was that of a small balloon. Its coverings were membranous, and after removing its contents, which were the same as those of the vesica, it was diaphanous. I discovered an oblong foramen, large enough to admit a small duck's egg, and which permitted the water to pass from one cyst to the other. This foramen is situated about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the neck of the vesica. The cyst is about nine or ten inches in length, measures around the fundus or posterior portion about seventeen inches, and the anterior part, ten inches. The peritoneum, coming from the vesica, ascends over the anterior part of the cyst, down the posterior side, and thence to the rectum. On each side of the sac, this membrane forms a broad duplicature, resembling the ligamenta lata. Through this duplicature the spermatic vessels passed, and united with these were the iliac vessels. The vesiculæ seminales were situated on the back part of the cyst above the neck of the vesica. The excretory ducts entered the urethra as is usual at the top of the verumontanum. The vasa deferentia I traced through the whole course of this cyst: they passed over its fundus in a circuitous rout to the anterior portion of the vesica, thence to the epididymis. The ureters were much larger than common; they entered the vesica near where the cyst is connected with it. The kidneys were three times the common size, and appeared

healthy. No uncommon appearance in the liver. The stomach was about sixteen inches in length, and of the size of the transverse colon in a healthy man. The spleen was much smaller than we generally find it; heart small and flabby; the intestinal canal filled in its whole extent with indurated feculent matter, and the rectum nearly impervious in consequence of the pressure of the cyst and the vesica.

Quere. Has the cyst above described been formed since birth, and if so, how can we account for its several connections?

CASE OF EMPYEMA SUCCESSFULLY TREATED.

By DR. CRAVEN, of Harrisonburgh, Virginia.

Sometime in the month of June, 1823, I was requested to visit the son of Mr. Christian Lambert, of the county of Augusta: the youth was about sixteen years of age. I found him supported by pillows in a sitting posture, labouring severely in respiration, so that every moment threatened suffocation; he was covered with cold sweats; his countenance ghastly, pulse tremulous, feeble and very frequent, with great emaciation of the whole system. The ribs of the left side were so much distorted, that their cartilaginous connection with the sternum had given way, presenting an abrupt elevation of about two inches above their former natural position. The heart was driven from its place. An undulating fluid was both felt by himself, and heard by other persons at his bedside, when his friends attempted to change his position.

On the first of January preceding, he had exercised in various kinds of laborious amusements with other young persons, a few miles from home, until a profuse perspiration covered his whole body, and had then sat on the frozen ground until quite chilly and stiff. On attempting to return home in the evening, he was assailed by an acute pain in the left side of the breast so severely, that with much difficulty and some assistance, he reached his father's house at night. About a week elapsed before any thing was attempted for his relief, except some domestic applications by his mother, when the pain, accompanied by cough and fever, with difficult breathing, alarmed his father for his safety; some empirical prescriptions were administered without relief.

The part was minutely examined. A small tumour was discovered betwixt the sixth and seventh true ribs, which receded on pressure, but would quickly return on removing the fingers; this circumstance, taken in connection with the history and present symptoms, left no doubt of its being a real Empyema, and pointed to the most eligible spot for the opening to be made.

Accordingly, a common abscess lancet was introduced through the inferior part of the tumor, close to the upper edge of the lowest or last true rib, to avoid wounding the intercostal artery, and on its reaching the cavity, very thin and dissolved pus spouted out to the distance of 13 or 20 inches. The canula of a common trocar was introduced, the better to convey the discharge into a vessel which was provided for the

purpose, and nearly two gallons were permitted to flow, after which it was frequently stopped by placing the finger on the mouth of the canula, to prevent fainting; this vessel being filled, a considerable quantity besides was received on cloths placed under him. The canula was then withdrawn, and a plug of lint firmly pressed into the orifice, which was secured by a compress and bandage. He was so much relieved by this discharge, that having taken some nourishment and cordials, he dropped into a profound and easy sleep for upwards of two hours.

When the dressings were removed, the patient was placed in a favourable position on the side of the bed, two or three quarts more of pus mixed with fragments of membrane were discharged; so that nearly three gallons in all must have been evacuated. A decoction of the pyrola umbellata was ordered to be occasionally thrown into the cavity, in order to wash out the detached portions of cartilage, &c. which might irritate as other foreign substances: and simple dressings externally employed with large firm compresses of folded linen laid upon the elevated points of the ribs, with a view to restore them gradually to their former situation, and a bandage over the whole. Wine, bark, steel, elixir of vitriol, and occasionally infusion of the pyrola, with a nutritious diet, were prescribed and strictly enjoined. His appetite improved, and in about a fortnight, to my agreeable surprise, he was convalescent, and the discharge was so much diminished, that on removing the dressings, not more than half an ounce escaped. The above medicines, with proper attention to the state of his bowels and diet, constituted the whole of his treatment, until his strength and health were restored to a tolerable degree of comfort and usefulness.—*Med. Recorder.*

OBSERVATIONS.

INSANITY

AS CONNECTED WITH JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

(Continued from page 6.)

On those occasions, where the madman has been tried in a criminal court, the usual course of examination by lawyers extends beyond the means of knowledge; the counsel for the prosecution has usually and gravely inquired of the medical evidence, whether the prisoner on ordinary topics, and on subjects unconnected with his insanity, could not converse in a rational manner; and also whether he did not possess sufficient understanding to discriminate between good and evil, right and wrong? When a medical person is employed, concerning any one to whom insanity is imputed, his principal inquiry is concerning his insanity: it is not his object to ascertain how much reason he possesses, but how far, and on what topic he is insane. And having gauged his insanity, he has performed his duty. If it should be presumed that any medical practitioner is able to penetrate into the recesses of a lunatic's mind, at the moment he committed an outrage; to view the internal play of obtruding thoughts, and contending motives—and to depose that he knew the good and evil, right and wrong, he was about to commit, it must be confessed that such knowledge is beyond the limits of our attainment. It is sufficient for the medical practitioner to know that his mind is deranged, and that such state of in-

sanity will be sufficient to account for the irregularity of his actions; and that in a sound mind, the same conduct would be deemed criminal.—If violence be inflicted by such person during a paroxysm of rage, there is no acuteness of metaphysical investigation which can trace the succession of his thoughts, and the impulses by which he is goaded for the accomplishment of his purpose. In some instances, he is not himself conscious of his actions. Should an equal injury be inflicted by the crafty and deliberate machinations of systematic insanity, where the motives to action are delusions, the scrutiny into the exact procession of thought which produced the motive, or excited the determination, is likewise beyond the reach of the medical practitioner. As it would be difficult, in a person of the soundest mind, to detect the succession of thoughts, tracing that which was most remote from, to that which was proximate to, the action; it can less be expected that the medical evidence should be capable of noting the consecutive irregularities of a disordered intellect.

Respecting the quantum of reason which the lunatic possesses, the physician may safely conclude, where he betrays no derangement, that on such topics, he is sound of mind, and the fact is firmly established, that those who are insane on particular subjects, will reason correctly on ordinary and trivial points; provided they do not become associated with the prevailing notions which constitute their insanity. Ordinary persons have been much deceived by this temporary display of rational discourse, and it generally occurs that we are disposed to form a hasty conclusion, in proportion to the paucity of our knowledge on any given subject;—most minds feel more invited to indulge in the convenience of a syllogism, than to undergo the toil of induction. Although an insane person may be calm and apparently rational at the beginning of an interview, yet when least expected, his disorder breaks forth, and in many instances, there seems to be no cause for this conversion from apparent sanity to evident derangement. In the commencement of the conversation, the lunatic shall evince a healthy perception of existing objects, and institute a just admeasurement of the subject under contemplation; or in other words, shall reason correctly; if he be placed in the society of other madmen, he is able to detect the folly and aberration from reason, which characterize their peculiar phantasies, and will often endeavour to convince them of the absurdity of their prevailing opinions; yet, in a moment, his mind launches into the regions of fiction, its admired clearness becomes obscured, and its seeming regularity exhibits a confused assemblage or violent distortion. There is no intermediate condition which separates these states; and the transition very much resembles the last connected glimpses of our waking thoughts, followed by the abrupt creation of a dream.

The subjects which constitute the insanity of a person, are the prominent features of his mind, and are more frequently recurred to than any other. He may discuss ordinary topics like other men; but this to him is a species of by-play, and he soon reverts to the interest or catastrophe of his drama. Whatever may be the subject of discourse, and however rationally he may appear to treat it, the experienced practitioner will expect, and he will not often be dis-

appointed, to find that by some unaccountable association, even ordinary topics are linked with his darling delusion,—the map of his mind will point out that the smallest rivulet flows into the great stream of his derangement.

(To be continued.)

DISORDERS OF LITERARY MEN.—NO. II.

We suspect there are few men, if any, in this country, who injure themselves by study. A person who has been familiar with the habits of our most learned men, and those too who are esteemed the most studious and indefatigable, would be astonished at the intense application of the scholars of Europe; and yet the latter are much less liable to disease than the former. We are constantly exclaiming against the studious habits of our men of letters, yet the truth is, that *application* is the only thing wanting to make them as *learned*, and as *eminent*, as any in the transatlantic world, and *proper regimen* is the only thing wanting to make them as *healthy*. Nothing contributes more to health than a constant and an habitual use of the intellectual faculties. The good will of the world is too apt to attribute the ills of sedentary men to the intenseness of their thoughts, and to overlook, or neglect, or even encourage those habits in which all their worst maladies originate. We well remember the case of a medical student, who looked forward with great anxiety to his last examination, and being ambitious to excel all his fellows, betook himself to what his friends called a most dangerous application. It was even told of him that he was sometimes found at midnight, poring over his books of anatomy, and that his mother could never avoid sneezing as she entered his room, so completely was the air scented with Lorrillard, which he was obliged to use profusely to conquer an almost irresistible inclination to sleep. This habit of snuff-taking increased so rapidly, that at length an ounce a day could scarcely prevent him from nodding over Cheselden in the evening, and absolutely losing himself over a page of Boerhaave. In a few months his health began to fade, he became emaciated, his skin assumed a coppery, yellowish tint, and exhaled, at some distance, the distinct odour of tobacco. He lost his appetite, and a diarrhoea came on, which resisted all the remedies the most skilful physicians could recommend. He was advised to give up his books,—but even persuasion was in vain. At length he became so completely emaciated and enfeebled, that little hopes were entertained of his recovery. His friends all execrated those habits of study which had led to this desponding state of his health, and the world talked so much of his making himself a victim of industry and perseverance, that he was at last persuaded to relinquish his pursuits, and all idea of taking a degree.—But the high hopes of all were disappointed; he grew no better under the *indolent* regimen. At last he determined to leave off snuff-taking, and, as by enchantment, his diarrhoea ceased, his appetite returned, and he soon recovered the same flush of health for which he had been formerly distinguished. He now returned to his books with more zeal than ever, and found no inconvenience in his midnight lamp, so he but breathed the atmosphere of his chamber unadulterated by the poisonous perfume of tobacco. Though it is not to the same pernicious and disgusting habit we attribute the diseases of our literary men, yet it is to others just as far removed from closeness of application, to which, as in the case just related, they are most generally ascribed.

The fact is, that a certain equilibrium must be kept up between the energies of the body and mind. Torpor of mind, with bodily exercise, will produce melancholy and consumption, as well as mental labour with sedentary habits. One who has no business to exercise his mind, can bear no fatigue of body—the least exertion wearies him. But the man who is actively engaged in the affairs of the world, whose intellectual faculties are constantly on the stretch, is continually in motion, yet seldom fatigued;—he walks miles every day without the consciousness of the least languor or uneasiness. If he is confined but one day to his house, whilst the calculations of business are going on in his mind, he begins to complain,—he finds activity of body absolutely necessary to support that equilibrium of which we have spoken, and without which the functions of the system will always deviate from their natural course, and its powers be eventually exhausted.—It is equally true that when the mind is inactive, the body may be so too without injury to the health, (although moderate exercise of both is necessary to a vigorous constitution); thus idiots always live a torpid kind of life, and yet are subject to none of the diseases usually incident to sedentary men. The hypochondriac is enervated in body as well as mind; the maniac is not only fierce, but strong and active; and the idiot is both indolent and slothful. Were it intenseness of thought which produces disease, why should we not find it as often among kings and senators and ambassadors, and men extensively engaged in commerce, as among sedentary students? Their minds are as constantly exerted, and their anxieties are far more oppressive. A native of one of the cantons of Switzerland, whilst he was employed in mercantile business, which required great and unremitting exertion of his corporeal as well as intellectual faculties, enjoyed the most perfect and uninterrupted health. At the age of 40, feeling a desire to become a philosopher, he wound up his affairs, and took to poring over the metaphysics of Locke, and the principia of Newton. These new occupations gave him no opportunity for bodily exercise, at all proportioned to that of his mind, and a disordered brain was the early consequence. A cessation of study, with a few medical remedies, soon restored his reason and his health; but again dipping into the sublime, geometry, and metaphysical abstraction, he once more lost his senses.

The longer intense thought is continued, the more does the vital energy become accumulated in the brain, and deficient in every other part of the body; this is exemplified by the fact familiar to every student, that when he has been thinking a long time, his thoughts are more vivid, and flow every hour more smoothly and rapidly along; but when that train is ended, a burning heat is felt in the brain, and extreme languor in every other part. This tendency produces, according to other circumstances, various kinds of inflammation, tumours, dropsy, headach, delirium, convulsions, lethargy or apoplexy. It is from this cause that learned divines in preaching, and learned professors in delivering their lectures, have sometimes expired in their chairs; and it was thus too that king Attalus died, in the assembly of Thebes, whilst he was animating the Bœotians by an harangue, to enter into an alliance with the Romans. Morgagni mentions a preaching monk who was seized with an apoplexy before his congregation; and a professor at Berne, deeply versed in the oriental languages,—a man in the prime of life, but of indefatigable industry, sunk into a state of idiocy

in consequence of pressure on his brain. Numerous other examples might be mentioned of the fatal results of this determination to the head, which is produced by study, and which is favoured by the bending position, usually and almost necessarily assumed by literary men.

If then it is found that the exercise of one organ, and the position which is required, produces an accumulation of blood in that organ, what depth of physiological learning is required to teach us that a change of position and the exercise of other organs will produce a determination of that fluid to them, and thus restore the equilibrium of health. If then our students would only study as much as they do, and exercise more, we should not be called so often to mingle in the sorrows of society for the loss of its most beloved and most learned members; and if they would only be careful to exercise as much as they study, they might study much more than they do, and yet enjoy perfect health.

REVIEW.

An Address delivered at Brunswick, before the Medical Society of Maine, at their annual meeting, Sept. 2, 1823. By ARIEL MANN, M. D. first Vice-President of the Society.

We promised, last week, to take some notice of the address, the title of which is here given. At that time we had not read a syllable of it, nor can we say that we have read the whole yet. The mind is so constituted that it cannot bear uninterrupted excitement for a long time; it must have occasional rest. Its sensibility to the sublime is so acute, its taste for the beautiful so exquisite, that when engaged with a production which is calculated too powerfully to excite the one, or too luxuriously to gratify the other, its evenness—nay, its very existence demands occasional relaxation. Lest, however, this apology should not be sufficiently appreciated, we propose, before completing the perusal, to go back and conduct our readers over the same path we have trodden, and we are certain that those at least who are gifted with mental excitability, (and we presume there are none else) will be wrought up to the same pitch that we were, and find an equal necessity for the aforesaid relaxation.

The address commences in a manner entirely novel, and the whole of the introductory paragraph displays great ingenuity—both in the ideas, and the language in which they are clothed. The grammatical accuracy, and the beauty and elegance, as well as the conciseness of every phrase—and the remarkable ease and clearness with which the sense of every sentence strikes the understanding, cannot fail to excite equally the admiration and the wonder of the reader.

“I rise, brethren, with peculiar diffidence to address you on this occasion, when I reflect on the entertainment you might have enjoyed by the employment of the talents of some abler member; and particularly from the extensive experience of our venerable president, chastened and improved by his own good sense, had not excessive modesty withdrawn him from your suffrages. My manner of life has been known to you all; how that from the first I have devoted myself to the practice of our profession, without aspiring to the elevated seat of the author, or to the more splendid stage of the orator. I beg you therefore to forget for a while the abilities necessary to execute this task with propriety, and listen with candour and indulgence to the efforts of a member, whose attachments to

the society was the only qualification that entitled him to the honour of your choice.”

Begging pardon for taking so great a liberty, we cannot forbear observing that, in this last assertion, the Doctor must have been carried too far by excessive diffidence—as it must be already apparent that no one can the remark apply with less force than to its author. As a proof of this characteristic diffidence, we have only to extract the following sentence from page 10, where, speaking of consultations, Dr. Mann very modestly observes that

“Perhaps no brother present can speak more experimentally on this subject, than he who has the honour to address you; as no one, in the same amount of practice, has met more frequently in consultation; and he can assure you with confidence, he verily believes, he has derived as much information from these consultations, as ever he has been able to impart.”

But to return and proceed with our author.

“The subject chosen for our consideration at this time is, an inquiry into some of the benefits that may be expected to result from the association of physicians in medical societies.”

The first benefit contemplated by the Doctor is to be derived

“From the purchase and collection of books in a common library. These are the treasures of the science, rich with the experience of ages, and the observations of thousands of our contemporaries. Medical as well as other sciences has been gradually progressive in its improvements. These may be traced as far in antiquity as the earliest dawnings of history. Man has been the subject of pain and distress, of disease and death, from the day he lost his primeval innocence.—But the Creator in his judgments has remembered mercy. Antidotes to these evils have been bountifully strewed through every part of the globe. These require the industry of man to discover and draw them forth to his use; and as they have been ardently desired, they have been diligently sought, by every nation in every age. A degree of success rewarded these exertions; and the records of discoveries in the healing art have been as faithfully made and as carefully preserved as the records of their politics or even of their religion.”

Although the remarks here quoted uniformly display great research into the principles of grammar, yet we confess ourselves a little doubtful whether the word *their*, in this last sentence, refers to “discoveries,” “records,” or “exertions,” though we are very certain it must be to one of the three, as they are the only plural nouns in the neighbourhood. In the course of these remarks, the Doctor has hinted at a discovery which, we believe, was never before made known, and which promises to be of vast importance to us, in a political, as well as medical point of view,—and not to us only, but to all new countries, where population is always exceedingly valuable. We allude to that part of the paragraph, in which he refers to the existence, in every part of the globe, of an antidote to death.

The importance of having collected into public libraries the originals of those books which have descended to us from remote ages, is next descanted on, and we are strongly inclined to concur in an opinion expressed by one who is undoubtedly familiar with all the works of Hippocrates, Galen, &c. &c. Now we do not pretend to a personal knowledge of the Doctor,

but feel assured that a style so clear—so correct—so chaste—and so classic, could only have grown out of a long and intimate acquaintance with the works of the best Greek and Roman authors, and that he can be no tyro in Greek learning who speaks with so much *balance* of “the accurate descriptions and faithful histories of disease,” which will be found in ancient books by “every one who has learning”—we beg pardon—by “every one who has *leisure* to peruse them.”

“But the books that have reached us from the *remoter ages* are, from a variety of causes, few in number, though rich in matter. It is since the invention of the art of printing that *these* [*i. e.* the books that have reached us from the *remoter ages*] have increased to an extent exceeding the means of individual possession.”

We presume it was the intention of the author here to express the idea that *books* are more numerous now than in the days of the celebrated physician of Cos, and we fear he has been rather too hazardous in venturing the opinion that this circumstance is in some measure owing to the invention of the art of printing.

In the course of the remaining observations on this first benefit, there are many fine sentences and brilliant metaphors, which ought to be preserved for the use of future authors. Such are—

“Here too is much to gratify curiosity, as containing the history of the progress of our art, and of the gradual development of the human intellect to its present state of more perfect emancipation.”

“This object is feasible to our united exertions.” &c.

“Much is already done, of which advantage may be made.”

“The political convulsions of different countries, have thrown open the doors and windows of the temple of nature, and men are rushing upon her altars with a devotion and enthusiasm,” &c.

“Volumes are daily issuing from the press, containing many valuable discoveries and useful improvements, of the utmost importance to be known. But abounding likewise with many repetitions, injurious innovations, and visionary speculations, which need but be read to be consigned to oblivion. These are the *gang* that accompanies the *gem*; the *husk* that envelopes the *grain*; and must be patiently removed like the *chaff* from the *wheat*, before we can attain the object of our search.” [!!!]

We presume our readers now feel the full force of our apology for not finishing the address. But we cannot help touching on the remaining heads of the discourse—in the first of which the Doctor proclaims another important discovery he has made, viz. that

“2. Books to be useful must be read.”

He then goes on to propose a plan for making all the books of the Society useful—which we shall indulge our readers with verbatim, as it deserves not only their universal imitation, but the patronage of our patent laws.

“And if their possession surpasses individual means, equally would their perusal surpass individual leisure. Our united exertions will accomplish this also. Let each as he has leisure, read such of our books as his interest or inclination shall direct, and carefully note any thing new or important with which he may happen to meet. This will furnish useful topics for conversation in our casual intercourse with each

other, and at our stated meetings. Here we may mutually exchange our respective acquisitions, or point out to each other the book, chapter and verse, where each important improvement may be found. Thus all our books would come to be read, and each of us become possessed of every thing valuable.”

Thus each member of the society is to read a certain number of shelves full of books; and there cannot possibly be a shadow of doubt to whom will be assigned the alcove which contains the several works on medical literature, and medical logic, and the interesting originals of Hippocrates, Galen, Paracelsus and Vesalius, since there is at least one member of the society, who will be able, with less trouble than any other, to “point out the chapter and verse where each important improvement may be found.” The above *recipe* may be regarded not only as a good method of reading all the books in a library, but also as an easy way of making a learned Doctor.

The author next extols Medical Societies, as encouraging *consultations*, and recommends and enforces the necessity of them in a very *feeling* manner—at the same time remarking that he practises a great deal in that way himself.

The last benefit enumerated is the production of feelings of *benevolence*, *good-fellowship* and *charity* among the faculty; and we will only add, that if the Medical Society of Maine can tolerate such a production as the one before us, we must certainly believe that *the greatest of these is CHARITY*.

INTELLIGENCE.

The Managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital, with the most commendable liberality, have presented the valuable anatomical cabinet of that institution, to the University of Pennsylvania.—It consists of numerous wax models, of the natural structure of the human body, by the late Dr. Chovet, in dried and wet preparations, tumours and urinary calculi, which have been taken from the hospital patients, diseased and variously injured bones, and specimens of natural history.—The managers have also deposited, for the benefit of the medical students who attend lectures at the university, the very celebrated anatomical crayon drawings and obstetrical casts in plaster, presented to the hospital in 1762, by the late Dr. Fothergill, of London. The circumstances attending the donation by Dr. F. are thus narrated by Dr. Wistar in his life of Dr Shippen, the first professor of anatomy in the university. “At this time also commenced his acquaintance with the truly philanthropic physician, Dr. Fothergill. The people of Pennsylvania seem always to have been regarded with affection by this gentleman, but at the present period he was more interested for them than usual. The Pennsylvania Hospital had lately been erected: he took it for granted that the students would resort to it, and supposed they would experience great difficulty in acquiring a knowledge of anatomy. To remedy this defect in their medical education, he employed Rymsdyck, one of the first artists of Great Britain, to execute the crayon paintings, now in the hospital, which exhibit the whole structure of the body, at two thirds the natural size, and the most useful obstetrical representations. Jenty, an anatomist of London, is said to have made the dissections from which these paintings are taken, and Dr. Wm. Hunter,

sometimes examined the work. They are supposed to have cost 200 guineas, and with 100 guineas in addition, which he contributed to the Institution, constitute a most substantial proof of his regard, as well as of his liberality.”

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society, will be holden at the Medical College, Mason-street, Boston, at 10 o'clock, A. M. on Wednesday, the 2d day of June. The dissertation by Robert Thaxter, M. D. of Dorchester, will be delivered at 2, P. M. Gentlemen who are interested in Medical Science are invited to attend.—A Statute Meeting of the Counsellors of this Society, will be holden at the same place, on Thursday, June, 3d, at 10, A. M.

The following gentlemen have been admitted to the Fellowship of the Society, since the last annual meeting, viz:—Drs. Abel Kittredge, Hinsdale—Trumbull Dorrance, Pittsfield—Hezekiah Eldridge, Newton—Charles T. Hildrith, Haverhill—Luther M. Harris, Brookline—Thaddeus W. Harris, Dorchester—George B. Doane, Boston—Edward Reynolds, Boston—Daniel Gould, Reading—John C. Dalton, Chelmsford—William Gordon, Hingham—Appleton Howe, Weymouth—Andrew Mackay, Plymouth—Chandler Robbins, Boston—Nathan Perry, Bridgewater—Caleb H. Snow, Boston—Thomas W. Parsons, Boston—Pierson T. Kendall, Sterling—Jonathan Stone, Canton—Christopher Deau, Colerain—and Benjamin Seabury, Orleans.

The following gentlemen have been licensed to practise, to wit:—Malthus A. Ward, M. D. Salem—Nehemiah Cutter, M. D. Pepperell—John K. Briggs, M. D. Dedham—Samuel Johnson, Andover—Royal Fay, Plainfield—Martin Spear, Worthington—George Frost, Springfield—Rodney Starkweather, Chesterfield—William C. Dwight, Northampton—Maltby Strong, South Hadley.

The annual meeting of the Essex Southern District Medical Society, will be holden in Salem, on the 1st day of June.

Drs. Reed, Spooner, Whitbridge and Finney, have been appointed by a committee of safety, to vaccinate the inhabitants of New-Bedford, Ms. at the expense of the town.

Small-pox is prevailing to some considerable extent in Albany, N. Y.; in other respects the city is quite healthy.

The measles have just made their appearance in this city. They have prevailed to a considerable extent of late, in New-York.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS. On our first page will be found an interesting case of morbid anatomy.—The translation from our friend Dr. T. M. shall have an insertion. The article will be more apropos a few weeks hence, the season when the disease usually begins to appear.—Dr. Barrows' case of abscess will be in course, next week.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

Ending May 19th; from the Health-Office Returns.

May 13.—Lucretia Callahan, 76. 14th.—Susanna Nichols, 43. 15.—Joseph Hewins, 47. 16.—Hannah Ticknor, 33; Lucilla Redding, 7 mo.; Elizabeth Lucy Lurvey, 5. 17.—William Shales, jr. 16. 18.—Job Wallis, 41; Nancy Flood, 23; Sampson Silsby, 76; ——— Mc Intosh. 19.—Joseph H. Childs, 47.

Debility, 1—Liver Complaint, 1—Intemperance, 1—Putrid Fever, 1—Inflammation on the Lungs, 1—Lung Fever, 2—Consumption, 1—Typhus Fever, 1—Pleurisy, 1—Mortification, 1—Stillborn, 1.

Died, in St. Louis, (Miss.) Dr. David N. Walker, and Dr. Richard Mason. At North Yarmouth, (Me.) Dr. Ammi R. Mitchell, aged 62.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Two dollars a year, payable in advance. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

REPORTS.

HEPATIC ABSCESS.

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer, by REUEL BARROWS, M. D. of Fryeburg, Me.

T. F***, of Fryeburg, a young man aged 27 years, was the subject of the following interesting case. During the early part of his life, he was often subject to febrile affections, and a troublesome humour, which not unfrequently affected the whole surface of the skin, and produced ulcerations the most loathsome, about his head, neck and extremities. At the age of 7 years, he was attacked with severe pain in the right hypochondrium, attended with violent fever.—After about a week, the fever subsided, and the pain was not felt in his side—but the superior anterior portion of the right shoulder became intolerably painful, and here the pain continued ten or fourteen days, when a violent fit of coughing came on, "something gave way in his right side," as he expressed it, and a copious discharge of fetid purulent matter followed, which nearly produced suffocation. This discharge was preceded by a slight expectoration of arterial blood. After a few weeks, his health was restored, and the cutaneous affection, which had been so tedious for many years previous, did not return.—He continued to enjoy comfortable health for 7 years from this, when he had another similar attack, which terminated in the same manner, but left him debilitated for months. Seven years after the second, he had a third attack, with a result very much the same as before.

Between the above periods of illness, he frequently complained of debility of the stomach and bowels, and weakness of the lungs—but most of the time was able to attend to his business, (farming,) without much inconvenience; he however complained of feeling tired at night, more than farmers generally.

For six months before his death, he complained more than formerly of pains in his chest, shoulders, &c., but pursued his avocations till about eight weeks prior to his dissolution. He took occasionally a cathartic, but would consent to do nothing more. When he was no longer able to keep about, he sent to me for a dose of calomel, said he was very bilious, and thought that medicine would cure him. It operated powerfully as an emetico-cathartic, and relieved his pains. Shortly after this, he was able to exercise a little, and walk a mile or two without much inconvenience. In a few days, however, he found his health declining rapidly, and called on me for medical aid. I found him labouring under violent fever,—pulse 120, and hard—thirst insatiable—perspiration profuse on the head and superior extremities, but none on his body or lower extremities—tongue red, without moisture—no pain except in the right shoulder, and there very severe. I applied a large blister over the region of the liver, and pursued the antiphlogistic mode of treatment. In a few days he was more comfortable, in every respect, except that the pain on the point of the right shoulder, continued, with very little abatement.

He insisted on my applying a blister to the shoulder, but I succeeded in convincing him that the pain he felt there was only symptomatic. The enlargement of the liver, (and other circumstances,) soon indicated an abscess in that organ, and the remedies usually prescribed in such cases, were resorted to without much apparent benefit. His lungs became at last a little irritable, a slight cough ensued, and in about a week he died.

DISSECTION. Twenty four hours after death, I examined the body in company with my friend, Dr. Griswold. The liver was found much enlarged, and very much diseased; there were two abscesses in the large lobe, containing, I should judge, a quart of pus, and not an inch of the whole organ, but was diseased and studded with tubercles. There were no marks of recent inflammation in this viscus, (except a spot on its anterior portion, about five or six inches in circumference,) although it adhered firmly to the diaphragm, stomach, and in fact to every substance contiguous to its surface. The gall-bladder was entirely obliterated,—no vestige of it remained, and even the depression in the liver, which should have contained it, was not to be discovered. The hepatic duct, and the ductus communis choledochus, appeared perfect. There was nothing peculiar in the appearance of the stomach or spleen, except that the former was smaller than common. The lungs adhered to the side of the chest, nearly in their whole extent. The right lung was united to the pericardium, and its inferior lobe to the diaphragm. On looking for the cicatrix, where the abscesses must have discharged their contents, it was easily discovered, both in the diaphragm and liver, where the former was adhered to the inferior lobe of the right lung, and near the bronchial vessel, through which the pus was discharged.

Is it not remarkable that so much apparent health should be compatible with such an extent of disease?

OPIUM EATER.

Probably the greatest opium eater known, is a man by the name of Smith, who is on the books of the Mendicity Society, in Eng. and who took to this practice for the purpose of producing a debilitated aspect, thus qualifying him for the profession of begging. He is a tall, extremely thin man, about fifty years of age, and walks, or rather creeps, as if he had just arisen from his grave—starvation sits upon his lip, and misery upon his brow: he eats two or three shillings worth of opium in the day. When he is deprived of this drug for want of money to purchase it, he becomes raving and hysterical, falls down in the street in most terrible tremors, which expedient generally has the effect of obtaining for him a few pence, when he runs immediately to the apothecary's, and sits all night by his favourite drug. It may be imagined that this man could not do without opium; but the following circumstance will prove that he could be brought to it by proper restriction. He was imprisoned for a month, and for a few first days

was incessantly roaring and lamenting for his opium, declaring that he should die if he did not get it. The surgeon allowed him a moderate quantity, informing him that he should have no more for three days. This obliged him to portion his allowance according to his resources.—The next allowance from the surgeon was a less quantity, and the third a still less, refusing at last to allow him any. The man became reconciled, and before the period of his imprisonment had expired, he was in excellent health, nor did he feel a wish for his former habit.

OBSERVATIONS.

HORTICULTURE.

TO PROPAGATE VEGETABLES.

Plants are propagated by seeds, by germs or bulbs, suckers, runners, slips, and offsets, and artificially by layers, into arching, grafting, budding and cutting.

The propagation by seeds, is to make sure of live seeds; for some lose their vitality very early after being gathered, while others retain it only for one or perhaps two seasons: some seeds also are injured, and others improved by keeping. The size of the seeds requires also to be taken into consideration, for on this most frequently depends the depth which they require to be buried in the soil; the texture of their skin or covering must be attended to, as on this often depends the time they require to be buried in the soil previously to germination. On the form and surface of the outer coating of seeds sometimes depends the mode of sowing, and on their qualities in general depends their liability to be attacked by insects. The proper climate, soil, and season, require also to be kept in view in determining how, where, when, and in what quantity, any seed must be sowed.

Germs or bulbs, cauline or radical, require in general to be planted immediately, or soon after removal from the parent plant, in light earth, about their own depth from the surface. Matured bulbs may be preserved out of the soil for some months, without injury to their vitality: but infant plants are easily dried up and injured when so treated.

Slips are shoots which spring from the collar or the upper part of the roots of herbaceous plants, as in auricular, and under shrubs, as thyme, &c. The shoot, when the lower part from whence the roots proceed begins to ripen or acquire a firm texture, is to be slipped or drawn from the parent plant, so far as to bring off a heel or claw of old wood, stem or root, on which generally some roots, or rudiments of roots are attached. The ragged parts and edges of this claw or rough section, are then to be smoothed with a sharp knife, and the slip to be planted in suitable soil, and shaded till it strikes root afresh.

The division of the plant is adopted in many species, as in grasses, the daisy, polyanthus, and a great variety of others. The plant is taken up, the earth shaken from its roots; the whole is then separated, each piece containing a por-

tion of root and stem, which may be planted without farther preparation.

With certain species, runners afford a convenient and sure mode of propagation. All that is requisite is, to allow the plantlet on the shoot, or runner, to be well rooted before being separated from the parent. It may then be planted where it is finally to remain.

Suckers are merely runners under ground; some run to a considerable distance, as the *acacia*, narrow-leaved elm, sea-lime grass, &c.; others, again, are more limited in their migrations, as the lilac, syringa, Jerusalem artichoke, *sapindaria*, &c. All that is necessary is, to dig them up, cut off each plantlet with a portion of root, after which, its top may be reduced by cutting off from one-fourth to one-half of the shoot, in order to fit it to the curtailed root, and it may then be planted, either in the nursery department, or, if a strong plant, where it is finally to remain.

VETERINARY MEDICINE.

FOOD AND REGIMEN.

In the case of severe wounds, attention should be paid to the condition of the animal in other respects. There being always, when such happen, a tendency to violent inflammation and fever, that may end fatally, means should be employed to moderate both. The apartment should be cool and airy, and so quiet that the animal should not be disturbed; the drink should not be warm, but rather cold, and given freely, though not in too large quantities at a time; the food should be sparingly given, and of a poorer quality than usual, and should be rather succulent and laxative, than dry or binding; bleeding may be employed either generally from a vein, or, in some cases, when it can be done, by cupping from the hurt part, as in the case of a bruise, (though this last will seldom be requisite or found convenient,) and it may be done more than once or twice, as may seem proper; laxative medicines also ought to be given and repeated, as there may be occasion.

HYDROCEPHALUS.

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer, by a physician of Sheffield, Mass.

A child was born in Berkshire county, Mass. with a tumour on its head, similar in nature and situation to the one described in *Med. Int.* vol. I. p. 121, except that it was much smaller. As it gradually increased in size, and was attached by a small neck, a physician applied the ligature for its removal. When the tumour came away, a considerable projection was still observed, and was supposed to be some remaining portion of its neck, which ought to have been included, and the ligature was accordingly applied again as close to the head as possible. This portion also sloughed in the usual time, leaving the same appearance of remaining disease as before, and it was now discovered that there was an opening through the cranium, and that the tumour protruded from within.

As the disease continued to advance, pressure was now tried, and carried to as great extent as seemed either practicable or safe. This measure proved alike unavailing with the former.—The tumour still advancing, all measures were omitted, and, after some months, it proved fatal in the manner usual in such diseases. No ex-

traordinary symptoms arose in consequence of the operation, and the cicatrization was perfected as in ordinary cases.

Quere. What would have been the effect of compression made according to the plan recommended by Sir Astley Cooper, in that form of the disease in the course of the spine? supposing the case so situated that all the fluid could be returned into the head, and confined there by the apparatus?

My own opinion is, that no benefit could result, but on the contrary that the fatal termination would be greatly hastened. This I infer from the following considerations, viz.:—The cases kept at bay by Sir Astley Cooper's method, were situated in the spine, and were probably a local disease,—I say a local disease, for this seems pretty evident from the fact, that no benefit has resulted, where the fluid in the tumour upon the spine has extended to the head. Indeed, I think there can be little doubt that this disease, wherever situated, is in its commencement a dropsical effusion, between the dura and pia mater either in the head, or the continuation of those membranes in the spine, and that the opening is the effect of pressure upon the part, by which the absorbents are excited to remove a portion of the bone, on precisely the same principle that the bony substance is absorbed away from the pressure of aneurism, and perforations made in the skull, by the pressure of growing tumours within. Now if what seems Sir Astley's opinion, that the accumulation of fluid be the consequence of the deficiency of bony support, it seems difficult to imagine why such effusions should not uniformly occur as the consequence of removing the bone in trephining, fractures, &c. It is difficult, also, if this principle be allowed, to account for the extension of the disease to the head, while but a point of bone perhaps at the lower extremity of the spine is deficient. On the supposition that the disease is a dropsical effusion, it is alike easy to account for palliation by the truss, or cure by puncture, as suggested by Mr. Abernethy,—when the disease is entirely local, and the tumour small, the effect of pressure on the absorbents in the first instance, being precisely what is produced by the same agent when applied in many other cases of local effusion, and the latter remedy having little danger, when affecting only a small surface.

From the conformation of the head, together with the history of the disease, when seated in that organ, it seems probable that a much greater extent of the membranous surfaces contribute to the disease, and that the opening through the bone, is an effort of nature to free the brain from dangerous compression. If this view of the subject be just, compression, if effectual, on the plan proposed by Sir Astley, must convert this form of the disease into ordinary chronic hydrocephalus. And if in other cases the compression of the whole cranium cannot keep the disease in check, it is difficult to conceive that any good could arise from the artificial method in question. Indeed there is much reason to believe that it would hasten the fatal termination. If there be any hope of relieving this form of the disease, it must rest upon the plan of procuring an almost insensible discharge of the fluid, and exciting very gentle inflammation by frequent puncturing, as proposed by Mr. Abernethy, and practised by Sir Astley Cooper with success in

some cases of this affection in the spine. But here, the very sudden and fatal symptoms which generally supervene, upon the slightest bursting of the tumour, even although but an inconsiderable quantity of its fluid contents be discharged, as was noticed in the first of the above cases, would seem to leave little promise from this source. If, however, this remedy should be found to succeed in cases of chronic hydrocephalus, of which there has lately appeared some favourable reports, it might probably be tried, with good prospect of success, in the form of disease which we have noticed.

JUNE.

The justness of our remarks concerning the weather in May, and the necessity of continuing the winter clothing through that month, has been amply illustrated within the last two weeks. During the last fortnight, great coats have frequently been indispensable to comfort, and fires have been almost as much required, as in any part of January. On Wednesday morning last, there was a frost, which, it is feared, destroyed a large proportion of our best spring fruits, and ice was found on water standing in places exposed to the open air. By the commencement of June, the east winds usually retire, the earth loses much of its moisture, and the heat is increased sufficiently to render the remaining winds and moisture innoxious and not disagreeable.

When the summer is not too hot, the mildness of June runs into the calm serenity of September; and we may therefore regard the present month as the commencement of our most delightful and healthy seasons. By the second week in June, flannels may be safely laid aside; and we would recommend in their place under-waistcoats, made of common *bunting*. This may seem, to many, a new and rather singular article of dress: it combines, however, many if not all the useful qualities of flannel, without being uncomfortably warm. It absorbs the perspiration, produces a pleasant excitement on the skin, and protects the body from the immediate influence of sudden changes in the weather.—The benefits resulting from the use of this article, are not merely theoretical; who has once worn, will never lay it by during the months of summer, and part of those of autumn.

DISORDERS OF LITERARY MEN.—NO. III.

When the brain labours constantly and alone, it robs not only the organs of locomotion, but of digestion; and nothing but general exercise can restore justice to both. After a luxurious meal, the stomach requires so much of the vital energy, that it can spare but little to other parts of the body; and if it be forcibly abstracted by mental exertion, the food lies a heavy, imperfectly digested mass, on an organ with which the system sympathizes more readily than with any other part of the whole animal economy. Hence, we see why luxurious living is totally inconsistent with much reflection. Violent exercise immediately after a full meal, retards the process of digestion almost as much as intense study;—nor do we rely entirely on physiological reasoning for these facts.—After two dogs had eaten abundantly, one was made to lie still in the corner, and the other taken to the chase: at the end of a certain time they were both killed; on examining the contents of the stomach, the food was found undigested in that of the latter, but reduced to a homogeneous mass in the stomach of the former. We all know how great

is the relief which old people and those whose constitutions are not vigorous, receive from a nap after dinner—it allows the chief energies to be exerted in the stomach, almost the whole body else being entirely at rest. Hence, too, why fools, who have already been mentioned more than once, not only live without thought and without exercise, but digest well, though they eat enormously—a fact noticed by Conf. Fleming, in the preface of his *Neuropathia*, and which most of us who have seen an idiot, have remarked for ourselves.

Some hours after a *temperate* meal, when the stomach is not loaded, the mechanical effect, and the invigorating nature of bodily exercise are required to promote the digestive functions; but after a *luxurious banquet*, more rest and more subsequent exercise are necessary. With a proper degree of abstemiousness, this extra time might be devoted to study, and thus not only much be gained for application, but all the evils avoided, which result from filling the stomach with too great a quantity or variety of food. If, then, with this strict regard to temperance, sufficient exercise be taken daily, to restore the equilibrium of the vital energy, great mental exertions may be rendered not only safe and agreeable, but salutary to the system. But when these rules are not regarded, when a man whose pursuits are of a sedentary, profound, and single nature, is satisfied with walking to church and back again twice every Sunday, and on the intermediate days, only to a friend's house to dine, and home again to study, it is most palpably certain that the constant contention thus kept up between the organs of digestion and of thought, without that bodily exercise, which alone can impart its due to each, must produce a long train of painful and dangerous disorders. Thus are the diseases to which sedentary men are liable, produced, not so much by study, as by the neglect of necessary exercise, and too great indulgence in the pleasures of society.

Having given these general views of the subject, we shall proceed to our critical and physiological analysis.

FOOD.

Among those subjects which immediately relate to health, there is no one more important, or less regarded by individuals, than their aliment. It is a mistaken notion, that one person requires an animal diet, and another, whose avocation and habits are different, a vegetable regimen; many of the diseases originating in dyspepsia, the great endemic of the northern States, are induced by a habit of living too exclusively upon a few articles of food, most of which are animal. Nature intended that man should subsist upon the variety of bounties with which she has so liberally replenished the earth, and constituted his system in a manner suitable to partake, almost indiscriminately, of whatever is agreeable to his palate: and the injurious effects of many articles of diet, are to be attributed, not so much to their peculiar nature, as to the refinements of cookery. Although the roast beef of England has become the magnum bonum of a good dinner, in this country, the too great freedom and frequency with which it is used, already begins to affect the constitutions of the opulent, by those peculiar disorders which have been entailed on the descendants of the high bred families of Great Britain. The gout was once a stranger in New-England, but the luxury of modern days is preparing the way for a train of constitutional irregularities, which future generations can only regret, while they suffer its inflictions. To live long, live simply.

It is true that animal food contains a greater portion of nutriment, in a given quantity, than vegetables, and in a proper state of preparation, it is almost adapted for the immediate action of the absorbents of the chylipoetic viscera; but the digestive functions of the human system become prematurely exhausted, by constant action, and the whole system eventually sinks under great or uninterrupted excitement. If plain animal food were taken but once a day, and men would substitute for the various ragouts with which modern tables are so abundantly furnished, wholesome vegetables and pure water, or a weak fermented beverage for the more deleterious potations of distilled liquors, we should see health walking in paths that are now crowded with the bloated victims of voluptuous appetite.—Millions of Gentoos have lived to an advanced age, without having tasted of any thing that ever possessed life, and been wholly free from a chain of maladies, which have scourged every civilized nation on the globe: the wandering Arabs, who have traversed the barren desert of Sahara, subsisting on the scanty pittance of milk from the half-famished camel that carried them, have seen two hundred years roll round, without a day of sickness.

The temperature of our food is an exceedingly important consideration. We are accustomed to take it too warm, forgetful of the fact, that artificial heat destroys the muscular tone of the stomach, vitiates its secretions and its physical powers, and induces painful and dangerous diseases of the liver. Let us take then another hint from the children of nature, who subsist on aliment of a temperature no higher than that of their own bodies, and who are generally hardy and long-lived, until the simplicity of their habits is intercepted by the adoption of the vices brought among them by the civilized invaders of their native forests.

ANATOMICAL CURIOSITIES.

Ramo Samme, an East-Indian juggler, has excited considerable curiosity in this city, by *swallowing a sword*, twenty one inches in length. Although it is perfectly feasible, from the anatomical structure of the pharynx, and straight course of the œsophagus in the posterior mediastinum, leading into the stomach, it must necessarily be a dangerous operation, which none will ever submit to, who have anxieties beyond the influence of money. The blade which he introduces, is of polished iron, quite thin, but one inch in width, and of equal diameter through its whole length. After taking off his cravat, he elevates the chin, by carrying the head as far back between the shoulders as possible, and then introduces the sword, which does not enter gradually, as we had been led to suppose, but on the contrary, falls suddenly, till the hilt strikes against his mouth. In this condition, the point can be distinctly felt in the fundus of the stomach, just below the ribs of the left side. It is withdrawn with great precision, and slowly, but its extraction is usually followed by a slight fit of coughing, from the irritation in the fauces. During this interesting, though chilling exhibition, his position is unaltered, as the slightest movement of the head would act upon the blade like a lever, in such a manner as to produce the most alarming consequences to the thoracic viscera. The recent invention of an instrument for pumping out the contents of the stomach, in cases of great necessity, is wholly free from the hazards mentioned in the case of Samme, because the pipe is so flexible, that it adjusts itself to the shape of the parts, without the possibility of doing any injury whatever.

By this explanation, that will be understood to be an operation perfectly consistent with human anatomy, and perfectly easy, (though not very agreeable, either to the performer, or to those who witness it,) which is generally considered as wonderful and almost miraculous.

The same, however, cannot be said of all the tricks performed by jugglers. One of these, who called himself Foulèt, and exhibited on the boulevard du Temple, at Paris, passed small peas and leaden shot into his nose and mouth, and took them out at his ears and eyes; he also passed them into his ears and eyes, and took them out of his mouth. This process was varied in many different ways, and so entirely inconsistent were all of them with the anatomical structure of the parts, that two gentlemen from Boston, who were present at the exhibition, were induced to wait till the crowd had dispersed, in the hope of getting at his secret. On assuring him that they were influenced by no other motive than curiosity, that they had no wish or intention to take up his profession, that they were strangers, and about to leave the country immediately, and last, though by no means the least influential argument, by giving him a napoleon, he showed several fistulous passages, which he had procured a surgeon to make from one of the above mentioned organs to the other. These artificial passages were kept open by passing occasionally through them small leaden cylinders; and the shot and small peas were propelled by the action of the muscles of the tongue and face, over which he had acquired a peculiar and habitual power. That such a power may be acquired, will appear evident to any one who has witnessed the extravagant exhibitions of rope-dancers, tumblers and clowns. It is also the acquisition of a similar power over the muscles of the extremities, which enables Ramo Samme to throw and catch the balls, with so much agility and precision.

INTELLIGENCE.

PROVINCIAL MONUMENT TO DR. JENNER.

At a numerous meeting of medical gentlemen, held at the King's Head Inn, Gloucester, Eng. Feb. 22, 1823, for the purpose of taking into consideration the best means of testifying their respect for the memory of their lamented countryman, Dr. JENNER, Dr. Baron having been first called to the chair, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

I.—That the transcendent discovery of vaccination demands from this meeting an expression of the highest admiration; while the genius, the judgment, and the caution, which guided its great author in his inquiries, and the candour and disinterestedness with which he communicated the result of them to the world, forever entitle him to the respect and gratitude of his fellow-creatures.

II.—That in order to express our sense of his merits, a subscription be now entered into, for the purpose of erecting a monument to his memory.

III.—That though we, as medical men, have deemed ourselves peculiarly called upon to come forward upon this occasion, we by no means wish to limit subscriptions to persons of our own profession; but rather respectfully to solicit all who venerate the character of the deceased, to give their assistance, that a memorial worthy of his name may be obtained.

IV.—That this memorial shall be placed in or near the city of Gloucester, that being the capital of the county which gave birth to Dr. JENNER, and not far distant from the place where he commenced and perfected his inquiries respecting vaccination.

V.—That this measure is becoming and expedient, independent of any steps which it is hoped may be adopted by Parliament, respecting a National Monument to Dr. JENNER.

VI.—That a Committee be appointed to promote the object of this meeting, by opening such communications with other districts as to them may seem expedient.

VII.—That the Committee do, for the present, consist of all professional gentlemen residing within 20 miles of Gloucester, the same being subscribers; and that they shall have power to add to their number such other subscribers who are not of the profession, as to them shall seem proper.

VIII.—That as soon as due exertion shall have been made in this cause, and the amount of subscriptions ascertained, a general meeting of the subscribers shall be convened, in order to determine upon the most suitable method of giving full and lasting effect to the object which has this day called us together.

IX.—That Messrs. Turner and Co. be requested to be the treasurers, and H. J. Shrapnell, Esq. to act as secretary.

X.—That the different bankers in the county be solicited to receive subscriptions, and transmit the same to the treasurer.

Any communications, in furtherance of the above object, are requested to be forwarded to H. J. SHRAPNELL, Esq. Gloucester, Eng.

Died, at Kinneff, in Hanover county, on the 21st ult. Dr. ROBERT HONYMAN, aged 77. He was a native of Kincardine, in Scotland, and for several years held the rank of Surgeon in the British Navy. In 1771, when Capt. Cook was expected to return from his first voyage round the world, the British ministry having ascertained that the French government had made arrangements to intercept him, upon his arrival in the European seas, and thereby avail themselves of his discoveries, determined to frustrate their purpose, by sending the Portland, a ship of the line, to St. Helena, to await Capt. Cook's arrival at that island, and convoy his ship to England. Dr. Honyman was surgeon of the Portland at that time, and wrote a journal of his voyage to St. Helena, together with an interesting account of the picturesque and romantic scenery of that island. In 1774, Dr. H. resigned his commission in the British Navy, and emigrated to the United States. Soon after his arrival in Virginia, he settled in the county of Louisa, and commenced the practice of medicine and surgery, which he pursued with unrivalled skill, fidelity and industry, until a short time before his death. At the commencement of the revolutionary war, unlike most of his countrymen, Dr. H. espoused the cause of his adopted country, and from the station of a common soldier, was speedily promoted by Gen. Scott, to the rank of Surgeon in a regiment. Although daily employed in the duties of a most laborious profession, he was so great an economist of time, that he made extraordinary attainments in literature.—

Besides a knowledge of almost every book in our language, worth reading, Dr. H. was thoroughly acquainted with the works of the most eminent Greek, Latin, French and Italian authors, and read them with nearly as much facility as English. It would hardly be saying too much to affirm, that he had read *more* and remembered *better* what he had read, than any man in Virginia. Neither age nor affliction could abate his ardent thirst for knowledge, and his astonishing memory was vivid and retentive to his last hour. As a man and a citizen, the whole tenor of his life was honourable, upright, and truly exemplary.

The will of Dr. Honyman, (bearing date June 1821, and admitted to record at the Hanover Superior Court, April 29, 1824,) which disposes of a very large estate, is admirably written.—The following is extracted from it:—"I also give and bequeath to my son, my thermometer, my diploma of Doctor of Physic, also a human rib which will be found in a small trunk in my chest, with my earnest request that he will carefully keep the said rib, (which is of James the fifth, King of Scotland,) and transmit it carefully to his descendants."

The Medical College of Ohio has been recently reorganized, and the professors' chairs filled by gentlemen of acknowledged abilities. A more detailed view of this school, as well as the time of its commencement, terms of the lectures, will soon be made by the faculty.

Sulphurous and mercurial fumigation, medical electricity, the vapour of resinous substances, alcohol, spirituous, acidulous liquors, &c. are administered at the hospital, Cincinnati, between the hours of 10 and 12 o'clock, every day, regularly, under the superintendence of Dr. Lawrence, the attending physician.

A vaccine institution has been established at Cincinnati, Ohio, by a permit of the city council, under the particular management of Dr. E. H. Stall.

The Small-pox has been completely eradicated in Denmark, and almost so in Prussia, by vaccination.

The Selectmen of Portland, have announced that eight persons who had the Small-pox, and were in the hospital in that town, have recovered, and have left the hospital, and that the town is now entirely free from the disease.

The course of Lectures at the Medical School of Maine has just closed, having been attended by nearly 60 students in medicine. Of these, 21 during the last week, passed a rigid examination by the Faculty, assisted by Dr. Mann, of the Medical Society of Maine, and stand recommended to the Boards of Trustees and Overseers of Bowdoin College, for the degree of Doctor in Medicine. The following is a list of the young gentlemen examined, and of the subjects of their dissertations, which were read in public.—S. W. Baker, Epilepsy—J. Barrett, Hemorrhage—C. Blake, Cynanche Trachealis—J. A. Bodwell, Emetics—S. C. Brewster, Cold—C. Carter, Hæmoptysis—T. Cary, Dysentery—J. Chase, Peripneumonia—E. Clark, Typhus Fever—J. Cochran, Cynanche Trachealis—R. K. Cushing, Delirium Tremens—J. S. Fernald, Eupatorium Perfoliatum—S. Fuller, Emetics—T. Gorham, Dysentery—E. Holmes, Chenopodium Album—B. Johnson, Typhus Fever—A. King, Phthisis Pulmonalis—C. Littlebridge, Chronic Hepatitis—J. Merrill, Indigestion—S. W. Pratt, Peripneumonia Typhoides—C. Snow, Hydrocyanic Acid. Of these young gentlemen, three are from Connecticut, two from Massachusetts, and three from New-Hampshire.—*Port. Gaz.*

LUSUS NATURÆ. May 14, a negro woman in Richmond, Virg. was delivered of a stillborn twin child, at a full period of gestation, which had two necks and heads, of perfectly natural appearance, having completely formed features. From the shoulders down, they are united, having but two arms and as many legs, with a double arm arising a little below the point

where the two necks unite to form the shoulders,—terminating in a hand with seven fingers. The sternum has a double appearance, although they cannot be felt. It has two spines, well marked superiorly, but less distinct below. It has a third leg arising opposite the natural ones. This is not double any where excepting the foot, which has seven toes—five coming out in the natural position, and two arising from the top of the foot. It was a female—had but one umbilical cord, and weighed 9 lbs.

Jedediah Cobb, M. D. of Portland, Me. has been elected Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, in the Medical College of Ohio, located in Cincinnati.

The Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of Berlin, have elected Dr. George Frick, of Baltimore, a corresponding member of that society.

Dr. Ward is giving a course of Botanical Lectures in Salem.

Edward A. Holyoke, M. D. is elected President of the Salem Athenæum.

The Massachusetts Medical Society, hold their annual meeting at the Medical College, Mason-street, tomorrow.

LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS. An account of the Varioloid Epidemic which has lately appeared in Edinburgh and other parts of Scotland, with observations on the identity of chicken pox; in a letter to Sir James Mc Gregor. By John Thompson, M. D. F. R. S. E. 8vo. pp. 419; Philadelphia.—Observations on the diseases of Females, illustrated by copper-plates of the diseases. By C. M. Clarke, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, &c. London; Boston, Wells and Lilly.—The Journal of Foreign Medicine, No. 14. Edited by J. D. Godman, M. D., quarterly, 4 dol. a year; E. Littell, Philadelphia.—The Monthly Journal of Medicine—conducted by an Association of Physicians. No. xvi. vol. iii.; H. Huntington, Hartford, Conn.

IN PRESS. By Wells and Lilly, Boston.—The seats and causes of Diseases, investigated by Anatomy; containing a great variety of dissections, accompanied with remarks. By J. B. Morgagni, Chief Professor of Anatomy, and President of the University of Padua. Abridged and elucidated with copious notes, by W. Cooke, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, and one of the Hunterian Society.

By Carey and Lea, Philadelphia.—A System of Midwifery, by W. P. Dewees, M. D. In one large volume, 8vo. with plates.—Essays on Variolous, Vaccine and Varioloid Diseases, by N. Chapman, M. D. 8vo.—Chapman on Fever, 8vo.—Cook on Nervous Diseases, in 2 vols. 8vo.—Cooke's Morgagni, 2 vols.

AN ADDRESS delivered by the venerable Josiah Goodhue, M. D. at his inauguration as President of the Medical Institution, connected with Williams College, has just issued from the press, and will be more particularly noticed as soon as received.

TO CORRESPONDENTS. We are obliged to Professor W. for his interesting communication, and shall insert it next week.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Ending May 27th, from the Health-Office Returns.

May 21.—Mary Geyer, 64; — Garvey, 22.—Richard Clark Conner, 39; Margaret McPatrick, 1mo.; Charles Wyman, 43; Isaac Bradish Wood, 24.—Catharine Amory Otis, 11; Patrick Phellen, 2 mo. 25.—Mary Danna, 4; Nelly Mc Kanna, 18mo.; Stephen T. Soper, 38; Lucy Thomas; Cynthia Gray; Thomas Thayer, 33; Roliff Classen, 62; William F. Hoffman, 15 mo.; — Whitney; — Chandler; Eunice Goddard, 29; — Elms. 26.—William Wallis, jr. 4. 27.—William French, 42.

1 Consumption, 6—Stillborn, 1—Fever, 1—Ulcerated Sore Throat, 1—Scald, 1—Drowned, 2—Hooping-Cough, 1—Throat-Distemper, 1—Enlargement of Spine, 1.

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BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 1824.

No. 4.

REPORTS.

For a few remarks on the subject of reports, we beg leave to refer our correspondents to page 19.

MORBID ANATOMY.

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer, by STEPHEN W. WILLIAMS, M. D. Prof. of Med. Jurisprudence in the Berkshire Med. Institution.

Mr. A. G. aged 60, by occupation a farmer, died on the 22d of April, 1824. It is more for the purpose of showing the wonderful tenacity of the vital principle, as evinced by dissection, than for a particular detail of the symptoms and treatment, that this communication is made. As the patient was not under my immediate care, it is impossible for me to give a minute description of his malady, or of the remedies employed.

He was attacked, six years ago, with asthmatic breathing, which was aggravated by dust, and particularly by the dust of the barn. He was likewise afflicted with pain in his breast and side. The difficulty of breathing was great while lying upon the left side. These complaints were not sufficient to deter him from labour, which was always severe and immoderate. His manner of living was generous, and he always indulged in the pleasures of the table. He drank large quantities of ardent spirits, and was always in the habit of taking a morning dram. His complaints gradually advanced for four years. After this period, he was attacked with paroxysms of distress, which were peculiarly severe at night. He was frequently necessitated to sit up all night. His pain was not always acute. He had long intervals of ease during the day.

In the summer of 1823, he reluctantly consented to receive medical aid, but he never could be persuaded strictly to follow the directions of his physicians. He would never neglect his work, whatever medicines he might be taking. I have known him to take a dose of calomel at night, and work all the next day in the rain. In fact, he never abandoned his labour till a few weeks before his death, when his legs became so œdematous that he could not walk. He rode on horseback (his horse generally on a brisk trot) every day during the last year of his life, until within three weeks of his death. A short time before this event, his nights were passed in the utmost agony and horror. It was impossible for him to lie upon his left side, and it was with extreme difficulty that he could lie down at all, so that nearly all the sleep he obtained, was in an erect position. He was attacked every five minutes with paroxysms of the most excruciating distress, which continued about the same length of time, when, from mere exhaustion, he always dropped into a disturbed sleep. His pulse, although accelerated during his distress, was hardly ever irregular. This fact induced some of his physicians to believe that his heart was not affected. I was always of a different opinion. He had a slight cough, and raised considerable bloody mucus during the latter part of his sickness. His voice was strong to the last. He sung a psalm clearly and distinctly five days before his death.

From repeated bleedings, he experienced more relief than from any other remedy. Emetics and cathartics were often prescribed. He took many of the *grand secret pills*, (the composition of which is no secret) known in this neighbourhood by the name of *bullet-pills*, from their size, and, I may add, from their operation. Blisters were frequently applied to the chest, with a good temporary effect. The tartar-emetic ointment, as recommended by the immortal Jenner, seemed for a while to promise beneficial results. He was more than once put upon a course of mercury, which induced slight salivation. While under this course, his complaint partially subsided, but I impute it more to his being confined to the house, than to any efficacy in the medicine. It might, however, have been of service in arresting the progress of an affection of the liver. Opiates and antispasmodics were liberally administered during his paroxysms.

DISSECTION. Upon opening the abdomen, we found the liver enlarged, somewhat hardened and paler than natural, but much less diseased than we expected to find it. The gall-bladder adhered to the colon. The spleen was much larger than natural, of a dark colour, and indurated. The pancreas was likewise somewhat larger and harder than natural. The pyloric orifice of the stomach was rather larger than common, otherwise that viscus was not diseased. The omentum was entirely absorbed. All the other viscera of the abdomen were natural.

Dissecting into the thorax, we found the lungs adhering to the pleura extensively, particularly the right lobe, and these adhesions were apparently of long standing. Ulceration and sphacelation had commenced on various parts of this surface. The right lobe was much enlarged, and completely gorged with blood. All the air-cells were filled with it, and the lung was entirely useless; it was as firm as the liver. The lower half of the left lobe was in the same situation. I have never seen lungs more diseased, where there was no destruction of their substance. There were two quarts of water, by measure, in the right cavity of the thorax. The pericardium was filled with water. The heart was enlarged to nearly double its natural size, pale, and flabby. The aorta, at its curvature, was much ossified. We found several bony deposits there, nearly as large as the thumb nail; the vessel was therefore contracted at that place. The semilunar, and tricuspid valves of the heart, were likewise ossified. The coronary arteries were completely ossified throughout their whole extent;—this will account for the extraordinary paleness of the heart. A large and *very firm* polypus was found in the right and left ventricles, branching into the right auricle and aorta, more than eighteen inches in length, and weighing $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounce. It adhered extensively to the left ventricle, and was as firm as muscle. It is therefore impossible that it should have been coagulated blood. The heart was more extensively diseased than I have ever before seen one, although I have examined many subjects.

OBSERVATIONS.

INSANITY

AS CONNECTED WITH JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.
(Continued from page 10.)

Dr. Rush remarks in his lectures, that "In no stage of phrenzy is a person in a condition to dispose of property, or to contract legal guilt of any kind, nor in the following states of madness:

1. "When it is general, that is, when persons talk or act incoherently upon all subjects: nor

2. "In its intervals, when those intervals occur after weekly or even monthly paroxysms of madness. The mind in these cases, seldom recovers its habits of correct action.

3. "Where persons depart in their feelings, conversation and conduct, in a great degree from their former habits. Thus, hatred to relations and friends who have never injured them; great taciturnity, or great loquacity; sudden acts of prodigality, or economy; liberality to public institutions at the expense of private justice; the evolutions of talents for wit and rhyming, and the arts of deception commonly called cunning, when contrary to the tenor of former practices; are all signs of derangement, and should constitute solid objections to the performance of acts which the law requires to be performed only in a sound state of mind. There are instances in which madmen talk rationally, but write incoherently. There are instances in which they do both correctly, but act irrationally in all the common affairs of life; and there are instances in which they are rational in one place and not in another. I have known a clergyman, whose prayers and sermons in the pulpit, discovered every mark of a sound mind, but who was constantly deranged when out of it; and I have heard of a judge in a neighbouring state, who was deranged in a high degree in his family, and in company, but who astonished the court of which he was a member, by the correctness of his opinions and conduct, when he took his seat upon the bench. In all anomalous cases of this kind, it will be proper to examine the state of the mind by conversation, by letter-writing, and by conduct, as well as by a change of situation.

"Should all of the above marks fail of deciding the state of the mind as to sanity, recourse should be had to the state of the pulse. It is, with but few exceptions, more frequent in all the grades of madness than in health. This remark, I know, is contrary to the histories of this disease that are to be met with in authors; all of whom consider the absence of fever as the characteristic difference between madness and delirium. Should any one doubt of the truth of this remark, I beg leave to refer him to the Pennsylvania hospital, in which there are, at present, between sixty and seventy maniacs; in all of whom, except eight, the pulse is more frequent than in its natural state."

On a more attentive consideration, there appears to be something latent, and perhaps mischievous, in the terms *Good and Evil, Right and Wrong*, as applied to cases of insanity. If an insane person be responsible for his conduct, I

know of no law which sanctions his confinement. If he can discriminate between *Good* and *Evil*, *Right* and *Wrong*, on what pretence is he to be deprived of his liberty? Is it humane to suppose him in his senses, when he becomes most outrageous? Is it christian-like to deem him responsible, because the violence of his disorder tears down the fences of the law, or snaps the ties of natural affection? Ought he to be punished when he is most to be pitied? If it be supposed that the terror of example will prevent the sallies of the maniac, it is a lamentable mistake. His belief in the *Good* of his principle, his faith in the *Right* of his actions, are superior to arguments;—his motive cannot be controlled by reason, nor baffled by the fear of punishment. Impressed with a *belief* in the delusion, he hurries forward to its accomplishment; and in the pursuit of the phantom, cannot be diverted by the most awful consequences. He is of those

"quem neque pauperies
"Neque mors, neque vincula terrent."

It is this firm belief, this fond indulgence of opinion, which makes him prefer seclusion to liberty; and leads him rather to forego existence than renounce his delusion. It is the same principle, which in a good cause, cheered the martyr at the stake, and raised his exultation while the flame consumed him. It is this *Belief*, however erroneous, which kindles enthusiasm in a cause, and arms us to defend it.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this highly respectable body, was held at the Medical College, in Mason-street, on Wednesday last. The venerable President, JOHN BROOKS, M. D. late Governor of this Commonwealth, having taken the chair, at a little past ten o'clock, the members were called to order, and the Recording Secretary read the proceedings of the Society and its Counsellors for the past year. A committee of five were then chosen as scrutineers, to collect, count, and declare the votes for counsellors, and the following gentlemen were elected, for their several districts.

For *Suffolk*, Drs. David Townsend, Thomas Welsh, Aaron Dexter, William Spooner, Asa Bullard, John G. Coffin, John Dixwell, James Jackson, Benj. Shurtleff, John C. Warren, John Gorham, John Randall, George C. Shattuck, John B. Brown, Walter Channing, Jacob Bigelow, George Hayward.—*Norfolk*, Drs. Amos Holbrook, Nath. Miller, John Bartlett, Robert Thaxter, Samuel Bugbee.—*Essex*, Drs. Edward A. Holyoke, Benj. L. Oliver, John D. Treadwell, Oliver Prescott, James Gardner, Richard Hazeltine, Nath'l. Bradstreet, Nehemiah Cleaveland, Joseph Kittredge.—*Middlesex*, Drs. John Brooks, Isaac Hurd, Amos Bancroft, Calvin Thomas, Abiel Haywood, Rufus Wyman, James P. Chaplin, Thomas Bucklin, John Walton, A. R. Thompson.—*Hampshire*, Drs. Elihu Dwight, Enos Smith, William Hooker, Joseph H. Flint, Seth Lathrop, Alpheus F. Stone, S. W. Williams.—*Worcester*, Drs. Abraham Haskell, John Green, Stephen Batchelder, jr. Daniel Thurber, Jacob Holmes, John Homans.—*Berkshire*, Drs. Asa Burbank, Daniel Collins, Benj. Rogers, Henry H. Childs, William H. Tyler, Robert Worthington.—*Plymouth*, Drs. Hector Orr, Cushing Otis, Nathan Hayward.—*Bristol and Barnstable*, Drs. Benj. Billings, Arteman Johnson, Alex. Reed, Josiah Batchelder.

A communication from the Medical Society of Maine, relative to certain property to which they conceived

themselves entitled, by the separation of that state from Massachusetts, and the establishment there of a similar State Medical Society, was read and referred to the Board of Counsellors. A report was also made of the sale of eastern lands, granted the Society by the Massachusetts legislature. After the transaction of other less important business, the members, and other gentlemen interested in medical science, attended to the discourse, which had been assigned to Robert Thaxter, M. D. of Dorchester. Although the room had not been very full during the immediate hours of business, when the time arrived for the dissertation, the seats could scarcely accommodate the auditors. The subject selected, was the various effects of ardent spirits on the corporeal and mental faculties of man.

At 2 o'clock, the Society adjourned. The members partook of a sumptuous dinner, which was served up at Concert Hall, where about 200 medical gentlemen, many of whom were distinguished strangers, spent the remaining part of the day in the mutual interchange of those hospitable and social feelings which we hope will ever prevail among the professors of the healing art.

At a meeting of the newly elected counsellors, held on the day following, the venerable JOHN BROOKS, M. D. was re-elected President; JAMES JACKSON, M. D. Vice-President; JOHN DIXWELL, M. D. Corresponding Secretary; JOHN GORHAM, M. D. Recording Secretary; JACOB BIGELOW, M. D. Treasurer; WALTER CHANNING, M. D. Librarian.

NEAR-SIGHTEDNESS.

Notwithstanding the inconvenience attending this state of the organs of vision, there are many persons who have induced myopia by the needless use of glasses, merely because it presupposes a literary taste, or an incessant application to books. There are times when goggles, as well as other and equally injurious apparatus for the eyes, have been actually fashionable. This custom has not prevailed exclusively among those who dress only to excite the gaze of their inferiors, but among scholars, in public institutions; and a genuine spectacle mania has not unfrequently pervaded our most respectable colleges. We have heard of a near-sighted clergyman, whose popularity was so extensive, that his pupils, in order the more strictly to imitate his manners, invariably wore concave lenses. It was remarked of a celebrated linner, whose misfortune it was to be a myope, that he had spoiled more brilliant eyes than he ever painted, solely from the circumstance that none of his apprentices conceived it possible to imitate their master's style, without being purblind; and a country schoolmaster, some years ago, having read the poetic effusions of the Rev. Mr. Blacklock, whom he accidentally ascertained was blind, all at once discovered that no person could find favour with the muses, unless in a similar condition. He endeavoured to elucidate this principle, by reciting some of the most sublime passages of the sightless Milton; and so strongly was he impressed with the belief that the exclusion of external light would produce a brilliant illumination within the precincts of the cranium, that he straightway set about acquiring a genius for himself. By gazing at the noonday sun, he had nearly accomplished what he so earnestly wished—to be in darkness to the gross things of the world;—finding, however, no poetical inspirations starting up in his mind, he gladly placed himself under the care of a physician, and asked him, with great anxiety, how long it would be before he should be able to see as well as his neighbours.

The number of persons who are near-sighted, from original defects in the anatomical structure of the eye, is exceedingly small,—and would these few trust exclusively to the operations of nature, they would stand a much better chance of *outgrowing* their misfortune, than they do of *overcoming* it by mechanical agents, prematurely applied. Perhaps one child in twenty is near-sighted: myopia infantilis, however, causes no alarm, because a complete development of the eyes eventually takes place: nevertheless, were a pair of spectacles confined over them at an early period, the convexity of the cornea would remain unaltered.

There are some kinds of occupation, such as copper-plate engraving, needle-grinding, pearl-setting, diamond-polishing, &c., that have a direct tendency to change the natural focal point, and prevent the eye from distinguishing objects at any considerable distance. When the eyes have been a long time directed to a small figure near the face, the muscoli orbiculares oculorum are continually compressing the globes, to shorten the axis of vision. These circular muscles exert their force on the anterior surface only of the sclerotic, whilst the internal humours, yielding to every impulse from the recti and orbicular muscles, produce unusual convexity of the cornea. This habit of frequently examining minute objects placed near the eye, may so far change the configuration of the transparent cornea, that the rays of light shall cross each other in the vitreous humour, before they fall on the sensible retina, thus producing an artificial myopia. Persons when first commencing a trade of the nature of those above mentioned, generally complain of a peculiar fixed pain in the eye-balls, which almost compels them to desist from labour; if they continue to work any length of time after this, the pain is succeeded by an intolerable headache, which usually terminates in an inflammation of the eyes. The reason is obvious; the more they strive to forget their pain, in the closeness of their application, the nearer they bring the object to the eye, and hence the muscles act with very great force on the balls in order to increase the distinctness of vision,—an operation which is easily demonstrated by bringing a book near the eyes, or trying to discern a spot on the tip of the nose.

We had the pleasure of being acquainted with a very ingenious mechanic, whose greatest ambition, towards the close of his life, was to make a watch, so exceedingly small, that it should be worn for a breast-pin;—many months elapsed before he could possibly work on the wheels more than an hour at a time, on account of the insupportable pain produced in his eyes. By degrees, he overcame this difficulty, till he was enabled to file the minutest pinions; but before the work was completed, he made himself so completely near-sighted, that he could never after distinguish one set of features from another, at the distance of a few rods. The powerful, and generally insensible contraction of the orbiculares oculi, in conjunction with the straight muscles that fix the position of the eye, under extraordinary excitement, not only serve to give a more convex shape to the cornea, which, if habitually continued, may remain permanently so, but the crystalline lens, as well as the nicely constructed parts within the membrana choroidea, all partake of the alterations in the external tunics.

Myosis, or a contraction of the pupil to a size too small for the free admission of luminous rays to impinge on the optic nerve, is another effect of viewing minute objects; it may also arise from wearing glasses, though

such coarctations are not very frequently the consequence of an improper use of optical lenses.

We do not pretend to deny the utility of concave glasses for the near-sighted, any more than we would object to the convex for the aged; still it is our wish to convince the class of myopes, by physiological and philosophical inductions, that the only way to subdue near-sightedness, is to throw aside all spectacles, and trust to the sole agency of nature. Myopes nearly close the eye when looking intensely upon any thing, by which means the rays of light are carried more directly through the pupil; this habit is all the while injuring the eye, as the very act of squinting, preternaturally compresses it, and elongates the cornea. It is on this principle that old age is a certain corrector of near-sightedness; for, as the muscles lose their contractile energy, the cornea becomes flattened in consequence of their relaxation; and hence those who have suffered from indistinct vision through a long life, often enjoy the most perfect sight when advanced in years.

We have seen that habit will partially destroy the faculty of seeing, and we can assure those who have a wish to remedy a complaint so serious to the student as myopia, that by exercising the eyes in the contemplation of distant views, or looking a certain number of minutes, once or twice a day, on some plain object that does not reflect light too strongly, at the same time avoiding to graduate the rays by the eyelids, a proper focal distance can, in most cases, be readily acquired, so that the most short-sighted person will come at length to perceive objects with perfect ease. As the whole cure depends on giving relaxation to a muscle which encircles the anterior surface of the eye, the strabismus that has been acquired, must necessarily be wholly subdued, by an effort of the will, or the disease can never be removed. There is no construction of glasses that will make a permanent cure, because the recti muscles keep the eye fixed at the axis required; whereas, if they are totally dispensed with, the individual can, with equal readiness, acquire the habit of seeing, at any distance. More particular arguments, founded on the known principles of optics, might be adduced in confirmation of the foregoing remarks, but they are intentionally omitted till we treat on the subject of presbyopia.

REPORTS.

We are happy to find among our communications, so many accurate views of morbid anatomy. It is a branch of science which throws great light on the treatment of a variety of diseases, and has hitherto been very much neglected. The increased attention of the faculty to the change of structure produced by diseases which have proved fatal, is a mark of a spirit of research, a zeal for practical improvement, and a deep interest in the welfare of those whose health is under their guardianship, which promises the continued advancement of medical science.

We feel confident that the friends of the deceased will readily afford every facility for this species of investigation, when they consider its object and its tendency. On the tomb of Rousseau, in the Pantheon at Paris, that celebrated poet and philosopher is represented as extending his arm out of the door of his narrow mansion, and holding in his hand a flaming torch,—beautifully expressing the idea that he enlightens mankind even after death.—Such should be the mausoleum of every individual who is the subject of post-mortem examination.

REVIEW.

The Monthly Journal of Medicine, containing selections from European Journals, the transactions of learned societies, &c. &c. Conducted by an association of physicians. April, 1824.

This journal is published at Hartford, Conn. It was commenced about two years ago, and until lately, was under the direction, we understand, of two gentlemen of talent and zeal in their profession, who have made themselves somewhat celebrated by their Essays on Fever, but who have become more generally known and respected in the scientific world by the unmerited abuse which has been heaped upon them and their work by those who have undertaken to review it. Of this however, more hereafter. Although the Journal professes now to be "conducted by an association of physicians," it is in reality under the sole direction of a young practitioner, whose laudable desire to become known and useful in his profession, has induced him to adopt this employment, as one of those wedges by which a young man in these days must crowd himself into practice. We are not sure that one person of ability and taste would not make a better selection for a work of this kind, than would be made by any association—but will present our readers with a fair sketch of the information contained in this number, and leave them to judge for themselves of the nature and value of the publication.

There are first given some remarks by Dr. Prichard, on the treatment of Paralysis.

This paper was first published in the London Medical Repository. Its object is to show the importance of inquiring particularly into the state of the medulla spinalis in disorders of the nervous and muscular functions. There are related 4 fatal cases of chorea, which occurred at the Bristol Infirmary, in three of which the spinal chord was examined and found diseased—a considerable quantity of watery fluid being effused within the theca. Improving on this exhibition, Dr. P. relates two cases of paralysis, two of hemiplegia, and one of paraplegia, in which the greatest benefit was derived from the use of blisters and issues on the back. He also recommends highly the internal use of oil of turpentine, in doses of from 3ss. to 3ij. three times a day, in diseases of the nature of the above. Of the practice here proposed by Dr. P. we can give our most decided approbation. For many years it has been the popular mode of managing cases of chorea in this city, and has been usually attended with better success than any other method of cure.

An Essay on Caries, by Mr. Liston, of Edinburgh, is the next paper selected for the journal. Mr. L. who is a young, adventurous, and rising surgeon, remarks that the usual treatment of this disease is too expectante—too inactive. He premises some observations on the pathology of the bones, in the course of which he censures the too common belief that the power of generating osseous matter, resides in the periosteum. The term *Caries*, he confines to those ulcers of the bone which resist the efforts of the constitution towards their cure, and require the interference of art.

In the treatment of the various species of this disease, both internal and external remedies are considered necessary. Of the latter class, are enumerated issues, sinapisms, blisters, and ointment of the tartrate of antimony, with the removal of the diseased portion of bone, when practicable; and the following case is related, to show the influence of the *moxa* in diseases of this nature.

"A man named Flanigan applied to me on account of most violent pain in his back, and stretching down his thighs. He had suffered under the disease for months, and had been very little, if at all, relieved by blisters, sudorifics, and other local and general remedies, which had been judiciously put in practice. He stated his complaints to have arisen, soon after he had been invalidated, in consequence of a severe injury received on the abdomen from falling on a stake. He had been a very active, muscular man, but, from continual suffering, had become emaciated to an extraordinary degree. He mentioned, that, within a very short time, he had lost three or four stone in weight. The pains were so violent as to prevent him from ever lying down in bed; and he was generally obliged to sit up, with his knees drawn towards the abdomen. The pain was distinctly pointed out as originating at the top of the sacrum; but no change could be perceived externally, in the form of the parts. The moxa was applied over the part pointed out by the patient, as being the seat of the greatest suffering; and, in a very few days he returned, to report himself perfectly cured. Long before the separation of the eschar, he had resumed his employment—a very laborious one; and, with the exception of a slight threatening of a return of his former complaints, which occurred a few months afterwards, and which disappeared without further treatment, I have every reason to believe that the patient continues well."

The Review of Mr. Guthrie's work on the operative Surgery of the Eye, is extracted from Anderson's Quarterly Journal.

On the inversion of the Eyelids.—Dr. G. concludes that when a removal of the inflammation is not sufficient to restore the cilia to their original state, the employment of sulphuric acid, according to the mode of Helling and Quadri, is most adviseable; this method consists in pencilling the concentrated sulph. acid on the inverted lid a few seconds, and then washing the part dry, to prevent the acid from entering the eye. This process should be commenced at a distance from the lid, and gradually brought nearer, and repeated until the contraction of the parts draws the eye-lashes into their natural situation. This application, which commenced with Helling and Quadri, and is recommended by Dr. G. has lately, as we learn from the Medical Recorder, been pursued with success by Dr. Darrach, at the Pennsylvania Eye Infirmary. If this process is not sufficiently powerful to remove the disorder, Mr. G. recommends the operation proposed by Mr. Crampton.

Relaxation of the upper Eyelid.—This requires the removal of a portion of the skin.

Wounds of the Eyelids, "are neither dangerous nor difficult of cure. When the lachrymal canal is divided, Mr. Guthrie doubts the possibility of its union in such a manner as to render it pervious. Contrary to Schmidt, he recommends the use of suture, in addition to the means usually employed."

Encanthis.—Treated by leeches and fomentations, and if resolution cannot be thus produced, bread and milk poultices must be used to encourage the formation of matter.

Extraneous substances in the Eye.—"In his directions for removing accidental extraneous substances from the eye, Mr. Guthrie has not mentioned, what we have often found useful in minor cases, namely, a small cone of writing paper,

brought to a point like a camel's hair pencil, and moistened, to take off the harsh corners. Sawyers, who frequently get particles of saw-dust in the eye, use the head of a pin to remove them."

Pterygium.—The cure consists in the removal of the diseased part, by an operation.

Extirpation of the Eyeball.—In performing this operation,

"Mr. Travers prefers the knife, but Mr. Guthrie agrees with Beer in recommending the use of the scissors. To prevent the hemorrhage from impeding the operation, an assistant should wash away the blood, by injecting water into the wound from a syringe; and when the eye is removed, the operator must carefully examine the orbit with his finger, to ascertain that neither the lachrymal gland, nor any diseased parts be left behind. When the bleeding has ceased, the eyelids are to be closed, the division of the external commissure is to be supported with sticking plaster, and the orbit to be covered with a light compress and bandage. When the eyelids are diseased, and the extirpation of the contents of the orbit is still considered advisable, they must also be removed."

Muscae Volitantes.—"By muscae volitantes are understood a variety of appearances moving before the eye, such as small threads or filaments assuming the form of worms, zigzags, or spots of greater or less dimensions, but generally small; little globules or webs, or luminous spots sometimes surrounded by a halo, which always move before the eye, and are never fixed."

"Muscae volitantes are incurable, seldom pass a certain point, and when the patient is assured of their not proceeding further, appear to be lost sight of, and to give no inconvenience, unless when the attention is directed to them. They are very rarely followed by cataract or amaurosis, and it is a great consolation to the patient to be assured that they are not dangerous."

Glaucoma.—Symptoms and diagnosis.

Cataract.—"Mr. Guthrie arranges cataracts in three classes; the hard, the soft, and the capsular; the hard, admitting only of extraction and displacement; the soft, seldom of extraction or displacement, but usually of division; the capsular, neither of extraction, displacement, nor division, purely considered as such, but by laceration and removal of the opaque body from the axis of vision by different operations; which, although they may partake of the nature of all, are yet not precisely any of them. The operation of extraction is a radical cure of the complaint; it is performed in a very short space of time, and when successful, causes the least disturbance to the internal parts of the eye."

Next comes the *Monthly Summary of Practical Medicine*, embracing articles of information, 1st. In Anatomy and Physiology. 2d. Surgery and Midwifery. 3d. Pathology and Therapeutics. 4th. Materia Medica and Pharmacy. We have no room to make extracts from these articles;—two facts, however, we will notice.

Uvula.—Mr. Lisfranc, who is attached to the hospital la Pitié, at Paris, and who gives a most excellent and useful course of lectures there on operative surgery, believes that the use of the uvula is to advertise the pharynx of the arrival of aliment, that it furnishes mucus to facilitate the passage of the food, and that it serves to prevent nasal mucus from falling into the glottis.

Cubebæ in Gonorrhœa, has been uniformly successful in the practice of Mr. Marly, in recent cases. An oz. should be given every twelve hours, and the antiphlogistic regimen strictly adhered to.

The remaining three pages are occupied by concise views of the several articles in the last number of the Medical Recorder.

VARIETIES.

VERMONT ACADEMY OF MEDICINE. This institution was opened in Castleton, in the spring of 1818, through the liberality and energy of Drs. Gridley and Woodward, of that town; in October of the same year, it was incorporated by the legislature of Vermont. In 1819, the Corporation united with that of Middlebury College, when this final examination was made, and degrees of Doctor of Medicine were conferred on the meritorious. In 1820, the charter of the Institution was so enlarged as to authorize its corporation to confer degrees:—they are, however, conferred by the college as before.

There are two academy buildings belonging to the Institution, the larger of which is 50 feet by 30, two stories high, with a skylight, and a turret for a bell. This building contains two lecture rooms, a chemical laboratory, a library, a dissecting room, and an anatomical museum. The regular course of lectures commences on the 1st Tuesday of September, annually. Five lectures are delivered each day, by as many professors, on the following subjects:—1st. Anatomy and Physiology. 2d. Theory and Practice of Medicine, and Medical Jurisprudence. 3d. Principles and Practice of Surgery, &c. 4th. Chemistry, Botany and Natural Philosophy. 5th. Materia Medica and Pharmacy.

In 1818, when the first lectures commenced, only fifteen students attended in the spring, and nine in the fall term; in 1819, twenty four; in 1821, seventy-six; in 1822, eighty-six; and in 1823, about one hundred.

WORCESTER DISTRICT. The members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, for the district of Worcester, will meet at the house of C. Stockwell, Innholder, in Worcester, on Wednesday, the 23d of June inst. at 10 o'clock, A. M.—It is earnestly requested that all the Fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society, resident in the county of Worcester, give their punctual attendance.

The Censors for the second Medical District, will meet at the same place, on the 23d inst. at 9 o'clock, A. M. for the examination of candidates for the practice of Physic and Surgery.—Gentlemen who intend presenting themselves for examination, will give notice by leaving their names with the Secretary, Dr. John Green, previous to the meeting.

An Infirmary for the diseases of the eye, has been established in Utica, N. Y. under the particular care of Drs. Coventry and Douglass.

A respectable physician from the eastward, informed us, a few days since, that he accidentally found a human skeleton, partially washed out from a beach, the bones of which must have been very old, as they were greatly decayed, with the exception of the right hand, the tendons of which were in perfect preservation, but of a green colour, and the fingers clenched. On inspection, three pieces of copper coin were found in the hand, which were so much defaced by time, as to ren-

der it totally impossible to ascertain their date, or the inscriptions upon them.

FATAL EFFECTS OF SUDDEN EMOTION. Miss Elizabeth Weatherby, daughter of the Rev. Mr. John Weatherby, died at Hackney, on the fifth of June. She had been the joy and pride of her parents, and on the melancholy tidings being conveyed to Mrs. W. that she had no longer a daughter, she sunk back in her chair, closed her eyes, and in an instant after, expired.

During the late contest between Sir Charles Macarthy and the Ashantees, that numerous, powerful, and cruel people committed many barbarities of the most savage nature. A Capt. l'Estrange, of the army of Sir Charles, was so shocked by seeing, on his march, two children hung up by the neck, and two with their abdomens cut open, that he dropped down and died.

TO HYPOCHONDRIACS. To be always considering "what we should eat, and what we should drink, and wherewithal we should be clothed," in order to avoid the approach of disease, is the most likely means of provoking its attack. A man who is continually feeling his pulse, is never likely to have a good one. If he swallow his food from the same motive as he does his physic, it will neither be enjoyed nor digested so well as if he eat in obedience to the dictates of an uncalculating appetite. The hypochondriac who is in the habit of weighing his meals, will generally find that they lay heavy on his stomach. If he take a walk or ride, with no other view than to pick up health, he will seldom meet it on the road.

When Sir John Tabor went to Versailles, to try the effect of bark upon Louis XIV's only son, the dauphin, who had been long ill of an intermitting fever, the physicians who were about the prince, did not choose to permit him to prescribe for their royal patient, until they had asked him some medical questions: among others, they desired him to define an intermitting fever. He replied, "Gentlemen, it is a disease which I can cure, and which you cannot."

Dr. Mead, when very young, consulted Dr. Radcliffe, on the means of rising in his profession. "There are two ways of doing so," replied that sagacious and extensive practitioner, "by bullying, and by cajoling mankind. I have bullied them, and done very well, as you see; you perhaps will cajole them, and that may do full as well."

When Garrick and Mr. Rigby were once walking together in Norfolk, they observed upon a board, at a house by the road-side, the following strange inscription:—"A go s kooored hear". "Strange indeed!" said Rigby; "how is it possible that such ignorant people as these can cure agues?" "I do not know," replied Garrick, "what their prescription is, but I am certain it is not by a spell."

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Ending June 3d, from the Health-Office Returns.

May 29.—Cynthia Gray, 35. 30.—Sophia Batchelder, 24; Hannah Currant, 46. 31.—Sally Bird, 37; Mary Feby, 17; Rebecca Livermore; John King, 16; John Taylor, 35. June 1.—Thomas R. Gerrish, 8 mo.; Caroline A. Minot, 3; John Reed, 24; John ——. 2.—Elisha Gould, 16; Sarah Hayward, 55; Caroline C. Brown, 3; Sarah Stone, 64. 3.—Richard Reddy, 31; Anna Maria Clark, 6 weeks.

Consumption, 4.—Intemperance, 2.—Paralysis, 1.—Stillborn, 1.—Teething, 1.—Worms, 1.—Drinking cold water, 1.—Inflammation of bowels, 1.—Typhus Fever, 1.

Died, at Amesbury, Mass. Dr. Jonathan French, æt. 46. In Plattsburgh, N. Y. James Kent Platt, M. D. Professor of the Institutes of Surgery in the University of Vermont, located at Burlington. In Norfolk, Virg. Dr. James D. Moseley. In England, Andrew Fife, Esq. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians.

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"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 1824.

No. 5.

OBSERVATIONS.

INSANITY

AS CONNECTED WITH JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.
(Continued from page 12.)

It has been stated, that the medical evidence, in order to impress and satisfy the tribunal, before which his testimony is given, should not merely pronounce the party to be insane, but ought to adduce sufficient reasons as the foundation of his opinion. For this purpose, it behoves him to have investigated accurately the collateral circumstances. It should be inquired if he had experienced an attack at any former period of his life?—If insanity had prevailed in his family?—If any of those circumstances which are generally acknowledged to be causes of this disease, had occurred? as injuries of the head, mercurial preparations largely or injudiciously administered, attacks of palsy, suppression of customary evacuations, &c. It should likewise be ascertained, if previous depression of mind had prevailed, resulting from grief, anxiety or disappointment, and it should not be neglected to collect any written documents; as insane persons will very often commit to writing their feelings and opinions, although they may suppress them in discourse.

There appear, however, sufficient criteria to discriminate crime from insanity, although it must be confessed, and such has been the opinion of distinguished legal authority, that they have often seemed to be intimately blended; yet there is a partition which divides them, and it is by such well defined interposition that they are to be separated: for madness, clear and unequivocal insanity, must be established by the medical evidence. It is not eccentricity, habitual gusts of passion, ungovernable impetuosity of temper, nor the phrenzy of intoxication, but a radical perversion of intellect, sufficient to convince the jury that the party was bereft of the reason of an ordinary man.

Notwithstanding the medical evidence may be incapable, totidem verbis, to give a clear definition of madness, so as to be suited to the conception of all persons, and to combat the various shapes of this disease, and the various notions affixed by different minds to the abstract terms he may employ, it is always in his power to state such projects—and such distinguished from that which all men have be rational, as shall leave no doubt on the minds of those who are to appreciate his evidence, that insanity exists: and if the person be really insane, it must be from the ignorance or neglect of the medical practitioner, if he do not satisfactorily establish his derangement, provided his opportunities of visiting and conversing with the patient have been sufficient.

(To be continued.)

SMALL-POX.

The following article is an extract of a recent letter from Dr. Fansher to Dr. Waterhouse, which was forwarded to us by a gentleman in this vicinity, as being

worthy of preservation, from the circumstance of its containing the ideas of one of the most eminent and experienced vaccinators in America, on the subject of the varioloid and other cutaneous diseases.

A great proportion of the cases of small pox after supposed vaccination, is no doubt to be ascribed to *spurious or ineffectual inoculation*.—But I beg leave to suggest a few ideas, which I conceive may have furnished some other grounds for the many unfavourable reports and rumours of the inefficacy of vaccination, and also of small pox after small pox.

It appears that various eruptive diseases have been prevalent in our great sea ports, during the ravages of the small pox there. Sometimes they may have come in contact with each other in the same patient. One disease may have been mistaken for another of a different nature, and given rise to the opinions and public statements which reason and science cannot admit, and to which experience and matter of fact stand directly opposed.

It is a fact, that a person may be afflicted with small pox and chicken pox at the same time, and the pustules of each disease will co-operate, and many have been puzzled by their conjunction.—A gentleman of my acquaintance, some years ago, inoculated several hundred persons with small pox matter, taken incautiously from patients labouring under small pox and chicken pox. Both diseases were communicated, and a kind of mongrel distemper induced. The first stage of the eruptions from this compound infection, exhibited the appearance of chicken pox. The latter proved to be small pox with all its phenomena.

Now if the pustules of small pox and chicken pox will co-operate as above, of which there is indubitable proof, it is easy to imagine what confusion the spreading of these maladies in the same place might occasion, especially at a time when every person was alarmed at the frightful name of varioloid.

In order to explain my ideas more clearly on the subject, we will suppose, for example, that A is a person who has been shielded against the small pox by vaccination, and has never had the chicken pox, and B a person who has had neither. Now let A and B be exposed to this compound infection, or inoculated with the compound virus, what would be the result? Why, I suppose that A would take the chicken pox only; and B would have both. But although A should have a mild disease, yet as both A and B took the infection from the same source, it would be very natural to suppose their complaints were of the same kind, and during the alarm it would not be strange if their malady should be pronounced *varioloid*. Every case that I have seen, which was called by that name in this State, proved to be small pox, chicken pox, or some common cutaneous eruption.

But if there exists a pustular disease that resembles small pox, distinct from it and chicken pox, of which I entertain no doubt, the idea is in favour of vaccination, for it may account for many supposed cases of small pox after small pox,

and supposed small pox after vaccination both in Europe and America.

Vaccination can never be "stripped of its high pretensions." It is now too late in the day for men of understanding to doubt its efficacy in securing the human system from small pox. It would be like doubting the polarity and utility of the magnetic needle, or the propelling powers of steam.

It is as fantastical too, as it is unscientific, to talk about its "modifying powers"—viz. its half way preservative powers. To any person who has imbibed such an opinion, I would only say, that I have within twenty-two years past, vaccinated eighty thousand persons, and that many hundreds of my vaccine patients have been tested with fresh small pox matter and infection; not one of the whole number have I ever known to take that distemper.

This seems to look more like exterminating powers than modifying power. But if the numerous public experiments of small pox virus, on vaccine patients in America is deemed insufficient to satisfy the incredulous and doubting—the high testimony of the medical council of the Royal Jennerian Society of London, should forever settle the question. I have the annual report of that Society's Committee in my possession, in which I am happy to find the following important clause, viz:—"The Medical Council of the London Vaccine Institution, admits not of any controlling or modified power of vaccination. It is as sovereign a prophylactic, as complete a preventative, as is the small pox itself against its own future occurrence."

HORTICULTURE.

PROPAGATION BY LAYERING.

"In general, the operation of layering in trees and shrubs, is commenced before the ascent of the sap, or delayed till the ascent is fully up.—The shoot, or extremity of the shoot, intended to become a new plant, is half separated from the parent plant, at a few inches distant from its extremity, and while this permits the ascent of the sap at the season of its rising, the remaining half of the stem, being cut through and separated, forms a dam or sluice to the descending sap, which, thus interrupted in its progress, exudes at the wound, in the form of a granulous protuberance, which throws out roots. If the cut or notch in the stem does not penetrate at least half way through, some kind of trees will not form a nucleus the first season; on the other hand, if the notch be cut nearly through the shoot, a sufficiency of alburnum, or soft wood, is not left for the ascent of the sap, and the shoot dies. In delicate sorts, it is not sufficient to cut a notch merely, because in that case, the descending sap, instead of throwing out granulated matter, in the upper side of the wound, would descend by the entire side of the shoot; therefore, besides a notch formed by cutting out a portion of bark and wood, the notched side is split up at least one inch, separating it by a bit of twig, or small splinter of stone or potsherd.—The operation of layering is performed on her-

baceous plants, as well as trees; and the part to become the future plant is, in both cases, covered with soil about a third of its length.

When the layers are rooted, which will generally be the case by the autumn after the operation is performed, they are all cleared from the stools or main-plants, and the head of each stool, if to be continued for furnishing layers, should be dressed; cutting off all decayed scraggy parts, and digging the ground round them. Some fresh rich mould should also be worked in, in order to encourage the production of the annual supply of shoots for layering.

DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

It is with pleasure we observe that some of our best physicians are pursuing particularly those branches of their profession which have been most neglected in this country. The diseases of the Eye had become very common here, when a gentleman of known talents and reputation in his profession, proffered his services to relieve them! He has, we understand, been successful in many cases which otherwise would have been neglected, and probably become incurable. We are happy to find that another of our physicians, of equal standing, has directed his attention to the disorders of the Skin. It is a numerous class of diseases, which great numbers are daily suffering under, and the obstinate nature of them often requires great research and attention.

The circumstance that Dr. ROBBINS spent much time at the European Hospitals for diseases of the skin—united to his known ability, induces us to recommend to the particular notice of our readers, the intention which he has made public, of attending especially to those who are afflicted with disorders of the above description.

Boston Col. Centinel.

MINER AND TULLY ON FEVER.

Many months have elapsed since this work was submitted to the public. It was unquestionably handled with more severity at the time it first appeared, than could have been reasonably anticipated; but it took much better, we believe, at the south, than in many sections of New-England; and it is evident that a reaction is now taking place, which promises to place these essays in the high estimation their merit entitles them to be held.

That the authors are gentlemen of professional eminence, is a fact too notorious to require proof; yet have they been most unmercifully cut and quartered by an illiberal phalanx of critics, and that, too, with as much indifference as ever Spallanzani instituted one of his famous experiments. The idea of crushing a man's reputation with impunity, barely because he may not have met the pathological views of some few individuals, actually carries the appearance of an illiberal hostility, and a determination to bring every thing to the meridian of private personal opinion, which is the most certain proof of a narrow and contracted mind. It is true, a second edition might be improved, and many sentences, which have been the unfortunate hinges for criticism to swing upon, could be dispensed with, without essential injury to the chain of sentiments. But because the too great zeal of the authors has led them to express their opinions with too much warmth, is it becoming a physician, and a man of benevolence, to curse the whole book, and reject a mode of practice

which is infinitely more rational, and must be infinitely more successful than any other?

The labour of reviewing, if the writer is predisposed to be severe, is infinitely less arduous than that of preparing matter to be reviewed. It would seem that there has been one simultaneous determination among periodical writers on medicine in this vicinity, to pick this book to pieces, and abuse its authors, more for the sake, we conceive, of manufacturing a pungent article to stimulate the taste of dull-minded patrons, than from any better motive; and in this opinion we have been the more confirmed, since we have observed that it is among that oyster tribe of readers, the popular reviews of Miner and Tully have been most generally relished. It is certainly an unhappy disposition in a physician, which excites within him a wish to rise by the overthrow of another;—but still it is the way of the world, and he who makes the most dust, or, like the New-Amsterdam trumpeter, blows the loudest blast, gains the greatest quantum of applause.

The book under consideration, has been roundly condemned by persons who never saw it, and who probably could not point out one of the falsities, with which they are so willing to believe it abounds. At the time when criticisms on Drs. Miner and Tully were the toast, we heard a medical gentleman very sagaciously ask, if any thing worth reading could originate with such ranters? The question was only answered by a general smile, which seemed to acknowledge its wit,—but we can assure the gentleman querist, that if he had ever read the book, he would have found it unnecessary to ask the question; and we will further venture to affirm, that every person of candor, who has given it a thorough investigation, has found as many articles of value, as apothegms of passion.

We had contemplated giving a critical analysis of the 1st, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th essays, which will be found to contain much useful information; but a multiplicity of that sort of business which obliges hebdomadal editors to be in a continual hurry, has rendered it impossible.

Dr. Miner probably flattered himself with the idea that he had been so precise and explicit, that he should not be misunderstood, nor his meanings distorted; but in this hope he has been sadly disappointed, and it must have been not a little mortifying for him to find, soon after his book came from the press, that a physician would consider it quite *unfashionable* not to abuse him! What is more discouraging, however, than all the rest, is that he cannot enjoy the only consolation of a mangled author, viz. the thought that his commentators were honest in their intentions. The author of "Reviewers reviewed," tho' a man of science, is not a physician, yet he certainly appears to understand the principles of these mal-treated writers better than the whole school of their reviewers.

We have been informed that the edition of the Essays on Fever, has been not only *well* sold, but *all* sold, and can also add, by way of illustrating the demand which still exists for the work, that our own copy has been *stolen*! At a late meeting of the Medical Society of Connecticut, certain books were selected, from which students in medicine should be examined, and others recommended for their general reading, among which we find "*Miner and Tully on Fevers*." This is surely a favourable argument in establishing one essential point,—that professional snarling against these gentlemen, is not so common in that enlightened state, as within the precincts of this metropolis.

DISORDERS OF LITERARY MEN.—NO. IV.

In the course of our future observations on this subject, we shall consult the different authors who have written on the subject; and without troubling our readers with references, we shall give such remarks as have been the result of both reading and reflection.

1st. *The influence of study and habitual meditation on the different organs of the animal economy, and on the intellectual faculties.*

In considering the influence of study and meditation on the corporeal and the intellectual faculties, it is necessary to premise some general remarks on those functions which constitute Life. These have been divided into animal and organic. The *organic* functions, or the functions of organic life, belong to man considered as an individual; such are respiration, digestion, nutrition, locomotion, circulation, generation, &c.; these belong to us in common with inferior animals, and with vegetables. The *animal* functions connect us with objects around us; such are sensation, perception, motion, &c.; the centre of these is the brain.

These two systems or lives, though thus distinguishable, are closely connected with, and dependent on each other. Hence the influence of the mind on the body, and the reciprocal influence which the state of the body or the health, exercises on the mind. Hence, too, why the man who in vigorous health, and in the early periods of life, is bold, aspiring and sanguine, when age or disease overtakes him, becomes anxious, dispirited and timid. How remarkable the connection between the digestive system and the brain! Affections of the stomach are marked by impaired vision, headache, and vertigo: while, on the other hand, an injury of the substance of the brain produces vomiting, and its contusions are followed by jaundice.

Still more intimate is the alliance between the organic system and the passions. If the mind is a prey to anxiety, the stomach refuses to digest the food; and if anger predominate, the heart beats with unusual quickness, the face is flushed, and the whole appearance testifies the internal disorder. The slave of ambition, who devotes his whole soul to the pursuit of power or fame, is wasted by corroding care; and often has the consequence been fatal, when these too fondly cherished hopes have been doomed to disappointment.

The animal system is remarkably under the control of habit. By the frequent employment of certain muscles, their strength is increased, and we acquire dexterity in their use which is abundantly exemplified in the rope-dancer, and the skill of the mechanic in the execution of this kind, though in a less degree, is the organic system. Thus the stomach is more readily the food to which it is accustomed, and that to which it is a stranger. But it still remains a question with many, whether this principle extends to the brain. It is certain that the powers of the mind are increased by exercise, and blunted by neglect; but how far this influence is effected through the brain, is the point in agitation. It may be thought that we go too far in attributing to each portion of the brain its particular functions, and maintaining that its development is connected with that of a certain talent or propensity of the mind; but this doctrine can boast its powerful defenders, and its rational defence. The growth of this organ usually accompanies the development of the mind; and in idiots, the deformity of the skull, and the smallness of the brain, are equally observable, whether it be that the former opposes the extension of the latter, or this, for want of

distension, fails to make its usual impression on the former.

Every part of our system has its peculiar sensibility, and is susceptible of excitement from causes corresponding to that sensibility. The muscles are excited to action by the will, through the medium of the brain, and each sense is in relation with certain qualities of the objects around. The eye is affected only by light, and the ear by sound. The brain, too, has its causes of excitement. The exercise of the mental powers determines the blood to this organ, and produces a temporary orgasm; and from analogy we may infer, that this exercise, become habitual, must be followed by the general development of the organ, or the increase of those parts which correspond to the faculties called into exercise.

No one can fail to have remarked the effect produced in the student by long continued attention to a single subject. The theme of his contemplation absorbs his whole soul; surrounding objects lose their power of affecting his senses; his eye and his ear are addressed in vain; or, if his attention can be gained for a moment, the impression is transient, and the mind relapses into its previous abstraction. In the mean time, the brain becomes the seat of unusual excitement; the face is flushed, and the arteries of the head beat with unusual force. If the work which engages him be one of imagination, the effect will be modified, and his whole appearance will indicate a deep interest in the subject;—his eye will be lighted up with animation, or overflowing with sympathy. The ardour of composition produces effects still more striking, as the effort and the interest are greater.

"WHO READS AN AMERICAN BOOK?"

We have in our possession a catalogue of American books and periodical publications, which can be procured of J. Souter, No. 73, north side St. Paul's churchyard, London. This catalogue was procured at London, about four years ago. It contains the titles of 306 stationary, and 25 periodical publications. Among them we find the following:—

American Medical Botany, with coloured engravings; by Jacob Bigelow, M. D.—An Experimental Inquiry into the chemical properties, and medicinal qualities of the Mineral Waters of Ballstown and Saratoga.—Barton's *Materia Medica* of the U. States, and *Elements of Botany*.—Coxe's American New Dispensatory.—Davidge's *Nosologia*, and *Physical Sketches*.—Elliott's *Sketch of the Botany of South Carolina*.—Ewell's *Discourses on the Laws of Matter*, and his *Family Physician, or Medical Companion*.—Gallup's *Sketches of Epidemic Diseases in Vermont*.—*Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia*.—Cleveland's *Mineralogy*.—*Pharmacopœia of the New-York Hospital*.—Rush's *Medical Inquiries*, and his *Sixteen Introductory Lectures*.—Rush on the *Mind*.—Report of a Committee of the Linnæan Society of N. England, relative to a large Marine Animal, seen near Cape Ann, Mass. Aug. 1817.—Smith's *Essay on the Causes of the variety of Complexion and Figure in the Human Species*.—*Dissertations on Boylston Prize-Questions*; by G. Chyne Shattuck, M. D.—Warren's *View of the Mercurial Practice in Febrile Diseases*.—Waterhouse's *Botanist*.—*Medical Repository*, N. York.—*N. England Medical Journal*, Boston.—Coxe's *American Medical Recorder*, &c. &c. &c.

Since the publication of this catalogue, Mr. John Miller, the celebrated London bookseller, has established in that city, a public library and reading room of American books.

TOLERATED QUACKERY.

Mankind, in every age of the world, have had a love for the marvellous; the more deeply any subject is involved in mystery, the greater has been the excitement; but when curiosity becomes connected with the operations of medicine, and the wonderful combinations of a nostrum are an object of serious cogitation with the invalid, it seems that neither a strong understanding, nor the superior advantages of a philosophical education, are barriers sufficiently powerful to guard the unfortunate from the detestable wiles of empiricism. Although this general view has nothing in it either novel or opposed to popular belief, it is yet little suspected, that general governments, while they apparently discountenance public impositions, are daily affording a degree of protection to quackery, by the most injudicious administration of the laws of patents.

A subject of still deeper regret, is the encouragement given to quackery by professional gentlemen, of high respectability, who, instead of lending their names in a common newspaper advertisement, to aid the sale of some unknown, unauthorized, deleterious invention of a charlatan, ought to use their most decided and vigorous exertions to counteract its administration. Distinguished professors in some of the medical institutions in America, are the abettors, and even the life of a system of nostrum-selling, in which our age already vies with that of Paracelsus, who died at the age of 40, with a bottle of elixir vitæ in his pocket. In proof of these facts, we need only refer to the daily publications in our several cities, and the columns of our country newspapers; universal restoratives may be there found recommended, which will cure all our diseases, and protract our days to the number of those of Methuselah!

Secret medicines rise and fall in the public estimation, with as much rapidity as revolutions are effected in the fashions of dress. *Aromatic Snuff* becomes the cure-all of one day, and Dr. Rogers' *Pulmonic Detergent* of another; but the one that possesses the *longest name*, or cost the patentee the greatest number of years to manufacture, (who by the way has no other motive than the relief of suffering humanity, without any sort of regard to his own emolument!) is susceptible of the most puffing, and generally continues longest in fashion. Within the last nine years, we have had consumption cured by a *lump of Detergent*,—breath sweetened by *Circassian Dentifrice*,—intestinal disturbers expelled by the *British Worm-destroying Lozenges*, patronized by the royal family,—the bile thinned by *Balm of Gilead*,—and corns cured by the dozen, by that "invaluable discovery," the *Albion Corn-plaster*; and all this is done at a rate infinitely cheaper than by any physician in the world, so that if a person complains of sickness in this glorious reign of philosophical improvement, it must be wholly through a wilful disposition.

The latest, though not least important nostrum thus imposed upon the public, not indeed by its own intrinsic merits, but through the medium of a printing-office, is the renowned *Swaim's Panacea*. This article is backed by the name of the Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, in a neighbouring university, in conjunction with another distinguished professor, belonging to the same seat of medical science! both of whom, we should suppose, would have been unwilling to have tarnished their reputations by suffering themselves to be coupled with, what we believe, a gross, despicable, money-catching concern.

Notwithstanding the melancholy absurdity of these proceedings, we have further reasons for censuring the

practice of which many eminent professional gentlemen are guilty, of giving currency to secret medicinal compositions. The Professor of *Materia Medica* in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in another State, as the advertisement will demonstrate, has recently recommended the *Liquid Opodeldoc, &c.* which, from the number of certificates connected with it, appears to be unrivalled in the catalogue of cure-alls. We have been credibly informed too, that the president of a medical society, not very far distant, derived a considerable yearly income from his connection with a family that manufactured patent pills; and that he was in the habit of directing their preparations, as well as assisting in their sale. Surely no man of benevolence or science can view the extraordinary support which is guaranteed to quackery in these days, without being astonished at such frequent violations of one of the first principles of our profession,—a total hostility to every species of empiricism.

REVIEW.

An Inaugural Address, delivered before the Berkshire Medical Institution, at the first annual commencement, Dec. 25, 1823. By JOSIAH GOODHUE, M. D. President of the Institution.

The author of this address is about 75 yrs. of age. Not only his gray hairs, but his professional usefulness, and his private worth, entitle him to the highest respect and veneration. His peculiar talents, and the character of his mind, are so well discovered in every part of this production, that we regret our necessity of giving so few extracts, and noticing it so briefly. The exalted nature of medical science, and its subserviency to the immediate and numerous wants of mankind, are set forth in perspicuous, strong and beautiful language,—and we cannot but wonder with our author, that whilst the arts of sculpture, painting and architecture, were as perfect a thousand years ago as at the present day, twelve hundred moons have scarcely shone upon us, since the prescriptions of the most learned physicians, were a mere farrago of inert simples.

The numerous relations we have of cures performed by the seventh son,—the royal touch,—and the dead man's hand, together with the bungling and cruel manner in which surgeons but recently performed their most important operations, are abundant testimony of the slow progress of Surgery before the middle of the last century.

"The invention of paper," says Dr. G. "was in the year 1000; of spectacles, in 1285; of the mariner's compass in 1300; of the art of printing, about 1423; and of the telescope, in 1590. But the circulation of the blood, on a knowledge of which the healing art so intimately depends, was not discovered till 1619, by the immortal Harvey."

The following observations, with which our author closes his remarks on this subject, by bringing into view the present state of surgery, are a fair specimen of the plain, unaffected style, which is so pleasing in a gentleman of near four score.

"I have not a London edition, but I believe that Benjamin Bell wrote within the last forty years. And there can be little doubt but that his system of surgery was, when he wrote, the best extant. His industry in investigating, and perspicuity in describing diseases, and the method of cure, stand almost unrivalled. And although there have been great improvements

made in surgery since his day, yet he has undoubtedly laid the broad foundation, on which that noble profession now rests. The Hunters, and the Monros, John and Charles Bell, the Coopers, Mr. Travers, and Mr. Abernethy, have been, and now are shining lights, in the British horizon of surgery. But I must not omit to mention Doctors Rush, Lloyd, Danforth, Wistar, Physick, Dorsey, Nathan Smith, the Bards, the Warrens, and the venerable Holyoke, as bright ornaments in the American constellation."

Notwithstanding this flattering view, much remains to be done for the improvement of both medicine and surgery, and with paternal earnestness, but almost youthful eloquence and zeal, Dr. G. entreats the younger members of the profession, to remember that *ten* fail of rising to eminence by neglecting to cultivate their talents, where *one* fails for want of capacity.

"Industry, *industry*, my young friends, is the universal panacea, the great arcanum, "the one thing needful" to your future usefulness and eminence in the profession. If the immortal Cicero was correct, when he said, "Men never resemble the gods so much, as when giving health to men;" then surely you have every thing noble and praiseworthy, to stimulate your exertions. Your pride, your ambition, and, above all, a desire to do the most possible good in your day and generation, unitedly urge you. Your instructors may teach, and your professors lay open the various subjects of the departments assigned them, with the utmost perspicuity; yet, if you are remiss in your exertions, it will be all, as it relates to your improvement, as water spilt upon the ground. Who, fired with a noble ambition of excelling in his profession,—his breast imbued with the milk of human kindness, and exulting in the desire of doing good,—would not spend the live long day, and burn the midnight lamp, in investigating the mysteries of his profession, and in laying a broad foundation, in theoretical and practical knowledge, for future usefulness?"

"Knowledge, the legitimate child of industry and perseverance, when joined with goodness of heart, enables the venerable divine, by his doctrines and example, to point out, and lead the way to heaven. It inspires the lawyer with eloquence, to snatch the widow and the orphan, the poor and the destitute, from the iron grasp of the oppressor. And it no less endues the physician with skill to turn aside the shaft of death, quench the burning fever, and replant the roses on the faded cheek. It gives dexterity to the surgeon's hand to stanch the bleeding wound, restore the broken and emaciated limb, and let in the light of heaven upon the darkened eye."

Dr. Goodhue next speaks of the effect of anatomical investigation on the moral destiny of the physician, and sketches, with great clearness and beauty, the arguments used by Dr. Paley in his *Natural Theology*, to prove the existence of a divine Agent, from the evidence of design in the human system. When reflecting on this subject, we have often wondered how it is possible for a physician, who sees in the human frame so many wonderful marks, not only of design, but of wisdom, power and goodness, and who is so often reminded of the transitory nature of earthly existence, can help being deeply impressed with a sense of religious obligation. The ingenious arrangement and exact balance of the various muscles,—the inscrutable op-

erations which are constantly going on in the stomach and alimentary canal,—the heart and arteries impelling the vital fluid to every part of the body, and the veins accompanying the arteries to receive the fluent blood, and convey it back to the heart,—the brain deriving nervous power from the blood thrown to it by the heart, and the heart continuing its motion by the nervous influence which it derives from the brain,—all proclaim, in a language no infidel can resist, the existence and wisdom of the great Designer.—Surely, it seems to us, "an undevout *anatomist* is mad."

Our author next speaks of the patriotism and energy of the few individuals by whom the Berkshire Medical Institution was first got up, and has been hitherto supported. It has received, however, we are happy to add, a recent donation of five thousand dollars from the State Legislature.

The mutual benefit the institution and the town in which it is located are likely to derive from each other, are next adverted to, and the discourse concludes with a very appropriate address to the Professors, and the pupils who were about to receive their degrees. He reminds the former of their great responsibilities, and apprises the latter, of the duties and difficulties of the life they are about commencing.

"You must not suppose," says Dr. G. to his young friends, "you have completed your education, when you commence practice. An unremitting attention to your books must accompany your practice through life."

"An affable disposition and deportment are necessary, to your doing the most possible good. If your patient has reason to believe that you sympathize with him in his distress, it will very much increase his confidence in your prescriptions; and they will be likely to be more efficacious, than they otherwise would be. But, after every attention, and every care,—after nights of sleepless anxiety for the good of your patient, instead of gratitude and thanks, you will sometimes meet with ill will and neglect; so that the lines of the poet will be verified:—

"God and the doctor, all alike adore,
Just on the brink of danger, not before;
The danger past, both are alike requited,
God is forgotten, and the doctor slighted."

These lines remind us forcibly of the following? epigram by Valerius Cordus, written about the middle of the 16th century, which shows that the ingratitude which our author refers to, is not peculiar to the present day.

"Tres medicus facies habet; unam quando rogatur,
Angelican: mox est, cum juvat ipse Deus:
Post ubi curato, poscit sua præmia, morbo,
Horridus apparet, terribisque Sathan."

"Three faces wears the doctor; when first sought,
An angel's; and a god's, the cure half wrought;
But when, that cure complete, he seeks his fee,
The d—l looks then less terrible than he."

Unlike an address which we had occasion to notice a few weeks since, the production of Dr. G. contains little that relates to himself, less indeed than we could have wished; and as we presume our readers would be gratified to learn any thing of the history of so excellent a man, we will make no apology for adding the following extract.

"Forty-five years of laborious practice in my profession, have whitened my head, and brought on the evening of my life. It has, for many years, been my delight, to see young men, well stored with medical knowledge, coming forward in the world; and it has always given me much

pleasure, to be, in any measure, instrumental in promoting their usefulness. And while I have the honour to preside in this Institution, it shall be the business of my declining years to promote its interests, in every way in my power."

INTELLIGENCE.

The varioloid small-pox has broken out in a family in Winsted, Conn. They had all been vaccinated, but it is doubtful if they ever had the genuine symptoms of kine-pock. A family, too, in Coventry, it is said, is afflicted with it. The infection, in the first case, came from New-York; the other is supposed to have been taken from some rags in a paper mill.

The following appointments have been made in the newly established Medical School at Charleston, S. Carolina. J. M. Campbell, M. D. Professor of Anatomy. James Ramsay, M. D. Professor of Surgery. S. D. Dickson, M. D. Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Medicine. H. R. Frost, M. D. Professor of Materia Medica. Thomas G. Priocleau, Professor of Obstetrics, &c. Edward Ravenal, M. D. Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy. S. Elliot, Professor of Natural History and Botany.

At a public commencement held in the University of Maryland, on the 5th ult. the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on 58 gentlemen.

THE LUNGS. An institution for the gratuitous treatment of diseases of the lungs, embracing all the forms of Consumption of the lungs, Asthma, Hydrothorax and Dyspepsia, so far as it impairs the respiratory organs, &c. has gone into operation in the city of New-York, which is intended not more for the purpose of charity, than the improvement of medical science. The physicians are James R. Manley, and Andrew Anderson.

A new Surgical Instrument, called *Retreating Spring Lancel*, was lately exhibited at the office of the Newport Mercury, invented by a young gentleman formerly of that town. This contrivance for bleeding is said to be simple and elegant, being capable of adjustment so as to make the incision of any required length and depth, with perfect safety, and performs the operation with such rapidity, as to prevent the slightest sense of pain. We understand it is highly spoken of by the medical faculty of Rhode-Island.

TO CORRESPONDENTS. We are obliged to Dr. W. of S. for his communication, and assure him it shall receive early attention.

We would remark to our valued correspondent, who wishes "to see in the *Intelligencer*, brief, accurate notices of the state of health in various sections of the country," that although we fully coincide with him in their utility, it will be impossible to give correct information of this character, unless our patrons, in the various sections of the U. States, will have the goodness to transmit us occasional notices of the state of general health in the places where they may reside. We hope the foregoing remarks will be a sufficient inducement for our friends to forward communications of this nature.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Ending June 11th, from the Health-Office Returns.

June 6.—Lydia Stevens; Bela Mann; Sarah Leishman, 26; John S. Homer, 2 weeks; Jno. Badger, 36. 7.—Hannah Sumner, 43. 8.—Henry A. Mills, 3; Elizabeth Cross. 9.—Elsy Davis Whiting, 9 weeks; James Coffin; Mary Notage, 20; Harriet Knowles Cassell, 4; John Henry Cassell, 1. 10.—John Wilkins, 71. 11.—Catharine Mahony, 23; Charles Ramsdall, 9; Mary A. Farrar, 71.

Consumption, 3—Fever, 1—Debility, 1—Hooping-Cough, 1—Lockjaw, 1—Dropsy of the Chest, 1—Old Age, 1—Canker, 1—Stillborn, 1.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER:

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OBSERVATIONS.

The manuscript with which we have been favoured by Dr. Wilson, is exceedingly interesting, and if perused by a student who has an opportunity of making all the references, will be found highly instructive, and of great practical utility. Its length renders it necessary for us to divide it into several numbers, one of which shall appear every week until the whole has been published. We shall always be happy to receive communications from such a source.

SPOTTED FEVER.

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer, by JOB WILSON, M. D. of Salisbury, N. H.

As some of the variety of fevers, which Dr. John Armstrong calls typhus, bear a considerable resemblance to our winter epidemics, called spotted fever, typhoid pneumonia, typhus petechialis, &c., it was thought that a comparison of some of the most prominent circumstances, both as respects their pathology and treatment, might be of use; and more especially, as we consider the prominent symptoms in all fevers very similar, though they may differ in degree, and have some peculiarities.

See Armstrong on Typhus Fever, p. 32. "In viewing typhus," &c. See Inquiry into the nature and treatment of the prevailing epidemic, called Spotted Fever, (by Job Wilson,) p. 189. "This fever," &c. Likewise see note on p. 189. —Armstrong, p. 33. "Correctly speaking," &c. Wilson, p. 143. "And from the most moderate," &c.—Armstrong, p. 41, and 42. "In typhus," &c. Likewise, p. 43, 44, and 45. "The sub-acute form of inflammation, most frequently begins in the trachea, like an ordinary catarrh." Wilson, p. 139, 165, 169, and 205. "Identity of influenza with spotted fever." See Lathorn's diseases of the lungs.—Armstrong, p. 50, 51, and 52. "The same distinction," &c. Wilson, p. 204. "In some instances, the sloughing," &c. Likewise see p. 111.—Armstrong, p. 60. "A faint yellow," &c. Wilson, p. 210. "When the capillary system," &c.—Armstrong, p. 66. "It will appear," &c. Wilson, p. 202. "As this disease affects different parts," &c.—Armstrong, p. 71. "Permission," &c. Wilson, p. 154.—Armstrong, p. 72. "The case above cited," &c. Wilson, p. 208 and 209. "From the pathology," &c.—Armstrong, p. 84. "In examining," &c. Wilson, p. 158. "Permission," &c. Likewise see p. 166, plate 4, p. 169, 170, 192, and note on p. 202.

The reader will perceive, that in the dissections last cited, we do not exactly agree: all allow that there was a venal congestion; but Dr. Armstrong states, that there was a deficiency of blood in the left ventricle of the heart, and in the aorta, which we have stated to have been in an extreme state of engorgement. It is even possible that both may be correct; yet it will be recollected that the left ventricle is much stronger than the right, and likewise that the arteries are stronger than the veins; consequently, it is usual to find the left ventricle and the great arteries nearly empty after death. To account for this difference, it is probable, from the symptoms

described, that Dr. Armstrong's patients were affected with a much milder form of the disease than ours. His pathology may at first appear plausible, but if we reflect that the arteries are almost always ruptured in the beforementioned cases, from the increased action of the heart and larger arteries, it must make his inductions at least extremely doubtful.

See Proximate cause of fever, Wilson's Inquiry, p. 181, 182, 183. Armstrong, p. 85. "If I had to fix," &c.—See Wilson's Proximate cause of fever. Armstrong, p. 85. "One striking difference," &c.—Wilson, p. 174. "For the immediate cause to take effect," &c. Likewise p. 178. "But as happens to plants," &c., and note. Likewise p. 180. "That the heat of the system is universally diminished," &c. Armstrong, p. 91, 92. "Many other febrile diseases," &c.—See Wilson's note, p. 80; likewise see p. 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 189, and note; likewise p. 192, 193. "If the disease does not immediately prove fatal, the accumulation of blood about the heart, at last excites it to action.

Dr. Armstrong has almost entirely overlooked the effect which the capillary system has in producing, and continuing fever. The heart, larger arteries, and the capillary system, may be considered as the two principal moving powers, which circulate the blood, and act, and re-act, reciprocally on each other: the heart and larger arteries, propel the blood to the capillaries, and the capillaries, in a sense, perform the office of a second heart, and return the blood to the heart by the veins.* This proposition will be illustrated, by considering the effect which a fever has on the pulse. In all fevers, there is more or less of an irregular motion in the pulse, attended with a peculiar sensation, similar to a jar, or rather a jarring of the coats of the artery, as though the blood met with resistance in passing the capillaries; in some instances, this is so considerable, as to give a distinct sense of the rebounding of the blood in the arteries, and constitute what is called a double pulse. But as soon as the balance of action between the heart, larger arteries, and the capillaries is restored, the blood flows in a smooth and equal wave, regularly and easily advancing to the extremities, plainly inferring that a certain something, which impeded its motion in the capillaries, is now removed, and we do not hesitate to pronounce the patient convalescent.

Wilson, p. 194, 195. Armstrong, p. 92, 93. Potter's Note, 30, 31. "It would be fortunate," &c.—Wilson, p. 193. "But should the patient," &c., and p. 196. Armstrong, pages 94, 95. "An emetic," &c. See Potter's Note, 32, p. 94.—Wilson, p. 197, 198. "If given in the hot stage," &c. Likewise see p. 208. "Treatment." Armstrong, p. 100. "Phlebotomy has a tendency to debilitate."—Wilson, p. 197. "Life and death appear to depend on different degrees of the same action." See Potter's Note on p. 102, Note 35.

* Yet we consider that the capillaries are assisted by the actions of the muscles, the elasticity of the skin, and, in some degree, by the action of the veins.

It would seem as though this gentleman had never witnessed the low grades of fever, which have occurred in these parts. Though, generally speaking, evacuants are proper, in most fevers, particularly in our autumnal diseases, emetics and cathartics are highly beneficial; yet, in our winter epidemics of the lowest grades, such as spotted fever, and, in some instances, puerperal fever, it would in general, be very improper, and sometimes even dangerous, to administer an emetic, except in the hot fit: and nauseating doses of antimony, &c. are proper only in the hot fit; much care is likewise necessary in the use of cathartics.

See Wilson, p. 199, 200. Armstrong, p. 113. "Yet if the patient be narrowly examined," &c. The symptoms here described, occasionally occur both in our summer and winter fevers, which are usually of the remittent form, on every day from their commencement, and are often attended with coldness of the extremities, forehead, nose, chin, &c., and of the knee, tibia, radius, and such other bones as are thinly covered with muscles; likewise sudden falling of the pulse, and sinking.

(To be continued.)

PHRENOLOGY.

It is considered that certain substances introduced into the digestive organs, or into the vascular system, act chiefly or specifically on the brain. But it has not yet been explained how these substances, acting all on the same organ, produce, nevertheless, phenomena essentially different. M. Flourens, whose former experiments tend to show that the encephalon is composed of several parts, performing essentially distinct functions, entertained the idea of ascertaining, by direct experiments, the cause of the diversity of effect just alluded to, in the proper or specific action of each of these substances on each of the different parts of the brain. It appears from these experiments of M. Flourens:—

1st. That, up to a determinate dose, opium acts exclusively on the cerebral lobes; belladonna on the corpora quadrigemina, and alcohol on the cerebellum.

2d. That the physical results of the action of each of these substances on each of these parts, are absolutely the same as those from mechanical lesion of these parts. As, for example, when a substance acts only on the lobes of the cerebrum, the functions of those lobes are alone injured: when on the cerebellum solely, those of this organ are deranged; and when on the corpora quadrigemina, those of this organ are injured, &c.

3d. That the action of each substance always leaves, after death, and points out, even during life, signs which may serve to distinguish the affected organ from the others.

4th. That camphor, æthers, &c. act in a manner analogous to alcohol; the watery extracts of henbane and bitter lettuce, &c., in a way similar to opium.

The experiments on which these inferences are founded, have been repeated before MM. Cuvier, De Humboldt, Portal, Dulong, and Dume-

ril, who are commissioned by the Institute to report upon the *Memoire* of M. Flourens.—*Revue Med.*

SEA-SICKNESS.

A correspondent in the *Monthly Magazine*, states, that if, on board a ship, we imitate the action of the body in a brisk trot, on horseback, no other sensation will occur, than what that action usually produces.

"I seated myself," says he, "in a chair upon the deck, and commenced a sharp libration of the body, such as it receives in trotting; and, in a few minutes, the previous nausea abated. In a quarter of an hour I recovered my spirits; in half an hour felt a desire to eat, which I indulged, to the surprise and disgust of those who were vomiting around me; in fine, I kept up the action more or less during the three hours in which we were in rough water, in which time I emptied my pockets of eatables; and, afterwards, I was as well as though I had merely taken my customary morning's ride."

THE DEAF AND DUMB.

Repeated observations have confirmed the physicians of Europe, in the opinion, that great advantages result to the community from limiting the practice of a physician to one class of diseases. A writer in the last number of the *London Medical Repository*, says, that daily experience convinces him more and more, of the nice discrimination which may be thus acquired in the distinction of maladies, if the views of a physician are founded on a knowledge of the operations going on in the animal economy, and he takes into minute consideration the nature of the various derangements in which particular diseases originate, and with which they are so frequently associated. Deafness and dumbness are but transiently noticed by surgeons in the United States, from the fact that they are consulted on so many subjects of surgical diseases which are accompanied by bodily pain. The circumstance that perfect hearing is not absolutely necessary to the maintenance and enjoyment of life, nor a want of the faculty of speech, sufficient to insulate an individual, and prevent him from associating with his species, has induced among us a most palpable neglect of the misfortunes of an interesting portion of our fellow-creatures. A laudable zeal and liberality is manifested by the public in providing for the education of the deaf and dumb,—but it is forgotten by the faculty that there are means of curing a certain proportion of the cases. It is not expected that a routine of country practice is favourable to the adoption of these views; but in cities, in which the profession is crowded, each one might have an opportunity of becoming distinguished and useful in a particular department of his profession,—and we have often wondered that some individual has not devoted himself to the study of the minute structure of the ear.

Mr. J. H. Curtis, an English surgeon, who relates the following successful cases, remarks, that deafness and dumbness are generally congenital, or the effect of acute disease occurring in early life. "The last cause," says he, "should lead us more frequently to attempt a removal of the difficulty than is usually done, and should, at the same time, give a greater hope of success, than if the defect were one resulting from organic malformation.

"George Humming, aged 18 years, was admitted into the Royal Dispensary, for diseases of

the ear, May 2d, 1822. He lost his hearing and speech, at five years of age, from an attack of inflammatory fever. No organic defect was discovered, but from the importunities of his friends, I was induced to make a trial. After dissolving the secretion, the ears were well syringed, a circumstance very important; I then had recourse to blisters behind the ears, which were kept open two months. In addition to these local means, a slight course of alteratives was administered, which were indicated by the tongue and state of the primæ viæ. As there appeared a defect in the natural secretions, I introduced stimulant applications into the meatus externus, from which I found a visible alteration in the appearance of the secretion, and soon after, it was followed by his being sensible of the appulses of sound. After being deaf and dumb for thirteen years, he is now able to speak and hear. The first word he uttered, was "mother."

"Mary Ann Hague, æt. 4 years and 6 months, lost both hearing and speech, at two years old, from an inflammatory affection of the brain. By persevering in the same treatment, as in the above case, for upwards of twelve months, she has obtained her hearing and speech.

"William Smith, a very interesting child, four years old, born deaf and dumb, was admitted a patient at the Dispensary, May 2d, 1821. By pursuing the like method, he is now able both to hear, and speak many words."

Do not these cases teach us that the excessive degree to which the powers are deficient, should not be regarded as a proof that they cannot be restored; and do they not afford encouragement to persevere in our attempts to give relief, where the defect has resulted from acute disease?

DISORDERS OF LITERARY MEN.—NO. V.

As every part of the animal system is dependent on use for its growth and development, it is easy to account, in the case of sedentary men, for the disproportionate increase of the mind to the body. The limbs, deprived of that stimulus which would give them vigour, are stunted in their growth; the legs, both from inaction and a continued sitting posture, are prevented from expanding, and the general circulation is sluggish and feeble; while the brain is constantly exercised, and constantly increasing in size and strength. This contrast between the head and the extremities has often been remarked among scholars, but in Rousseau and Lalande, it is said to have been peculiarly striking. It is the same languid circulation which gives rise to those obstructions in the liver, and other abdominal viscera, which are so common among sedentary men.

It has been said that the organic system is peculiarly under the dominion of the passions;—but if the influence of the passions is more immediate, that of the mind is not less sure, nor certainly less to be dreaded. We may remark, too, that the effect of this cerebral excitement on the organs, must be, to render them more susceptible of injury from other causes, though it may not, of itself, produce this injury. On the other hand, we find certain affections of the liver produce a change in the mind, excite the imagination, and give a melancholy character to all the feelings.

It seems, at first view, a strange observation that a life of inactivity and study should wear upon the system more rapidly than great and constant bodily labour.—But if we consider what has been said on the effect of

exercise in augmenting the strength, and of neglect in lessening it; if we view, on the one hand, the labourer, toiling to be sure, but free from care and anxiety, and on the other, the student, uniting the highest mental activity with perfect bodily inaction, our surprise will cease. To prove that in this manner are sown the seeds of disease, we have only to turn to the records of literature and science. Epicurus so exhausted his system by application, as to be unable, during the last years of his life, to rise even from his bed. Aristotle was affected with weakness of the stomach. Petrarch fell a victim to repeated attacks of epilepsy, and Tasso, Pascal, and Zimmerman, were subject to an agonizing melancholy. Descartes imagined himself visited by a spirit, which exhorted him to the search of truth; and it is related of Barloeus, that he imagined himself, by turns, made of glass, butter, and straw; and tormented by the alternate fears of breaking, melting, and burning, he put an end to his own existence, rather than endure apprehensions worse than death.

The effects here alluded to, depend, in some measure, upon the nature of one's pursuits. There are books, which being composed without genius or energy, are perfectly innoxious, whilst others combine exquisite and forcible ideas, in such an exact connection, that they elevate the soul, and fatigue it with the very pleasure which injures the reader in proportion to its degree.—Boerhaave, after profound meditation on an interesting subject, passed six weeks without sleep, when he suddenly returned to the same state as before the accident. Malebranche was seized with dreadful palpitations when reading Descartes' *Man*; and a professor of rhetoric, at Paris, fainted away while he was perusing some of the sublime passages of Homer. A gentleman of literary taste, who had injured his health by too intense an application to study, could never listen to an interesting story, without a terrible vertigo; and the distinguished Mr. Dugald Stewart, of Edinburgh, the depth and beauty of whose metaphysical speculations, have excited the deep interest, and delighted the imagination of us all, is now incapable of fixing his mind long on any kind of calculation. If he begins to indulge on a metaphysical subject, which, a few years ago, would have entranced him, the chain of his reflections is continually breaking, and his mind wanders into more general and less profound speculations.

Many instances of the pernicious effects of intense study on the nervous system, have occurred in our own vicinity, which we have thought it unnecessary to detail;—we cannot, however, forbear a tribute to the memory of a friend,* of a penetrating genius, an excellent understanding, of strict morals, and one who seemed born for a better fate. Animated by too great a love of learning, he passed all his days, and most of his nights, in reading and meditation, particularly on subjects of legal science. At the early age of 32, he felt the sad effects of this course;—he became less and less able to sleep quietly, began to talk incoherently, and his reason, unable to recover its ascendancy, departed, and was soon followed by his life. Every body who knew, respected and loved him, but in the acquisition of his abundant store of learning, both in his profession and in theology, he had been too zealous, and too forgetful of the care he ought to have bestowed upon his health.

Besides these diseases, which may all be referred to the nervous system, there is another class which de-

* John Gallison, Esq. of this city, who died in the winter of 1820.

pend on a habit of sitting, and that sluggishness of the circulation already alluded to. Such are jaundice, hypochondriasis, gout, dysury, stone, &c., to which we may add the more common affection of indigestion, or weakness of the stomach. Hæmoptysis and consumption, so direful in their effects, are principally caused, in literary men, by the vitious position of the chest in studying, and by fatigue from continued effort of the lungs.

Such are the dangers which beset the path of science, and such the price too often paid for literary distinction.

WARM BATHS.

A great variety of warm baths have, from time to time, been proposed by physicians, and the substance of which different baths are composed, is thought to give to each its specific efficacy. Among the most singular establishments of this nature, are the baths at St. Amand, which are composed of *mud and water*. The waters are alkaline, and the consistence of the preparation is about that of molasses. Its temperature is 77 deg. Far. It is esteemed useful in paralysis, abdominal obstructions, and calculous affections. A treatise respecting these baths was published in 1685, by M. le Doct. Hérouquelle, and, since then, they have been noticed by about twenty different authors. The period at which they were discovered, is not precisely known, for within the last century and a half, they have been several times destroyed by the ravages of war, and as often repaired by royal authority. In these fountains were discovered two hundred different statues, which are supposed to have been thrown in as offerings, by the Romans who repaired hither for relief; and in the same manner have the learned ones accounted for the discovery, in these baths, of a great number of metals, stamped with the names of the Roman Emperors. These natural fountains of health, have, at the present day, a certain degree of celebrity, and we are personally acquainted with a gentleman of this country, who thinks he derived from them considerable relief from a calculous disorder which induced him to try their efficacy.

The *malt bath*, which is sometimes resorted to by rheumatic gentlemen, was first used, we believe, by those who supposed its fermentation would entirely destroy all putrid and unhealthy diatheses, and give a new and vigorous character to the cutaneous secretions. The difficulty of ascertaining the precise temperature of baths of this nature, renders them not only difficult to manage, but very dangerous. A gentleman near Calais, was advised by his physician to remain 2 hours in a malt bath, which had been arranged for the purpose. Half an hour after immersion, he began to complain of distressing sensations over his whole body, and in the course of the same day he expired, entirely in consequence of his experiment.

The *shampooing steam bath* is a useful and safe, but rather too troublesome application. Of this we shall give some history in our next paper.

NEW WORK.

It is proposed, at Paris, to publish a periodical work, entitled the *Universal Bulletin of Science and Industry*. The object of this journal is to present to mathematicians, natural philosophers, chemists, geologists, naturalists, physicians, agriculturalists, mechanics, historians, philologists, military men, and in fact to scholars of every description, an analysis of all works, memoirs of learned societies, and periodical publications which appear in every part of the civilized world.

This *Bulletin* will be divided into eight sections, and any person may subscribe for the whole, or any single section, as he may choose. It will be published monthly, and the following table will give the size and price of each number.

Number of the sections	Subjects of each Section.	Number of pages in each No.	Price of sub. per year.	
			francs.	dls. & cts.
1	Mathematics, Nat. Philos. and Chemistry.	16	20	3, 80
2	Botany, Mineralogy, Geology, &c.	24	29	5, 54
3	Medicine, &c.	24	29	5, 54
4	Agriculture, Domestic Economy, &c.	16	20	3, 80
5	Arts.	16	24	4, 56
6	Geography, Statistics, &c.	20	24	4, 56
7	History, Antiquity, & Philology.	16	20	3, 80
8	Military Science.	12	15	2, 85

From the spirit with which this work is undertaken, and the unsparing industry with which the conductor has transmitted his circulars to different parts of the globe, and solicited the countenance and aid of learned societies and learned men in every country where they exist, we are induced to believe the work will be well supported by the public;—that it will be by the conductors, their names are an ample pledge. The third section will be a strictly medical work, and we recommend it to our friends, as being under the patronage of many of the most distinguished men in the profession, viz. :—

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY, human and comparative. —MM. Andral fils, E. M. Bailly, Béclard, Breschet, J. Cloquet, Bon. Cuvier, Desmoulins, Dumas, Duméril, Edwards ainé, H. Edwards, Flourens, Geoffroy-Saint-Hilaire, Gerdy, Magendie, Pinel fils, Spurzheim, Vasseleur.

MEDICINE.—MM. Andral, Cayol, Desgenettes, Duméril, A. Dupau, Edwards ainé, Friedländer, de Kergardec, Laennec, de Lens, Magendie, Martini, Méral, Orfila, Pinel fils, Ratier, E. de Salle, Spurzheim, Thillaye, Villermé.

SURGERY.—MM. Béclard, Bodelocque, Bougon, Bouvier, Breschet, J. Cloquet, Deneux, Desormeaux, Dubois fils, Gasc, Gerdy, Hollard, Laurent, Lisfranc, Marjolin, Maingault, Percy, Sanson.

MATERIA MEDICA AND PHARMACY.—MM. Cadet de Gassicourt, Desmarest, Guibourt, Guillemin, Julia-Fontenelle, Lassaigne, de Lens, Méral, Orfila, Robinet, Robiquet.

VETERINARY SURGERY.—MM. Bouley jeune, Dupuy, Girard père, Girard fils, Huzard père, Huzard fils.

Subscriptions are received "au Bureau central du Bulletin, Rue de l'Abbaye, No. 3, à Paris." At the central office of the *Bulletin*, No. 3, Abby street, Paris.

MINERAL SPRINGS.

As the season is now advancing when invalids begin to wend their way towards these fashionable resorts, we beg leave to suggest a few observations on the general utility of such journeys.

The most remarkable cases of relief supposed to have been afforded by natural medicinal waters, have been among persons who have travelled the greatest distance to reach them. When we hear physicians recommending their patients to go to Saratoga, it reminds us of the story of a prudent father, who, on his death bed, told his son there was an immense treasure buried in one of the fields he had bequeathed to him. The son's anxiety to possess the hidden mammon, can be readily imagined; he turned up every inch of soil on his premises, in search of the wished for prize. As he grew both healthy and rich, while personally cultivating his land, he fortunately discovered, in his old age, that the fruits of industry, health, fortune, and domestic enjoyment, were the precious gems his plantations had afforded him. Thus, too, are the benefits of mineral waters, more the result of the healthful exercise of the journey, and the enlivening scenes which watering places usually present, than of any specific virtues in the springs themselves.

If persons in a delicate state of health, who have no real disease, (and we know there are thousands who are always weakly, and fearful of *over-doing* themselves,) would use the same exertions at home, they are compelled to submit to while jolting in a clumsy carriage on the *road to health*, our celebrated springs would soon be destitute of votaries, and those pantheons of fashion, which attract the genius as well as the beauty of the United States, would rarely quench the thirst of any but the truly infirm, the curious philosopher, or the wandering pilgrim.

There is something, however, in a change of scene, which renders a journey to Saratoga of more utility than exercise at home; but for the virtues of the water in affording relief to the ailing, they might as well wander over the rugged hills of Maine, or visit the Ohio or St. Lawrence, as pamper their imaginary appetites at Lebanon or Saratoga. It is only to those who are affected with some chronic or specific disease, the mineral waters can of themselves afford real benefit.

Inactivity and irregularity are the grand causes of all that sort of valetudinary feebleness, which has become so frequent among those good livers, who have not the curb of poverty to check their unaccountable desire for medical advice. There is no doubt of the fact, that people take too much medicine; where ten actually die of acute disease, ten more are doctored to death at their own solicitation. The same abuses which have insensibly crept into the practice of physic, in relation to chronic maladies, are also taking place in regard to the administration of chalybeate waters. There can be intemperance in drinking water, as well as wine; and when we have seen delicate females at Ballstown Spa, swallowing as potent draughts of aquæ minerales, as if their stomachs were like the tubs of the daughters of Danaus, we have ceased to be surprised at the influence of habit on the physical properties of the digestive organs.

Voltaire says that Ogul, a celebrated voluptuary, finding himself extremely ill, in consequence of both indolence and intemperance, sought the advice of a physician. He prescribed a *basilisk*, stewed in rose water. In vain did Ogul despatch his numerous slaves in pursuit of the *basilisk*; not satisfied with their faithfulness, he undertook to find the plant himself. In the course of eight days, he breathed easily, and before the *basilisk* was found, he wholly recovered. When he reproached the learned professor of the healing art, with a base design to put his life in jeopardy, by sending him on a tedious journey after an article which had no ex-

istence in nature, the physician sagaciously informed him that if it had been obtained, it would have done him no good, but his imagination had excited him to make those efforts on which his restoration wholly depended.

It is a fact, which we have reason to think no one will pretend to contradict, that in England, the Bristol and Bath waters, and in France, the Enghien Aix la Chapelle, are, in the cases of nineteen out of twenty who frequent them, merely a pretext for intrigues, and those violent sieges of dining and dancing, which turn day into night, and night into oblivion; and when the prosperity and population of this country will warrant the means, we may anticipate among ourselves a frightful catalogue of such evils as originate in overgrown wealth, a love of indolence, and the celebrity of public watering-places.

VACCINATION IN PERTUSSIS.

It is a long time since it was suggested that vaccination, which has already done so much for the life, health and beauty of our race, is still capable of affording further benefit. It has been said to be the only effectual remedy for whooping-cough; and so doubtful are the effects of all our usual remedies in that complaint, that we have felt some interest in making a trial of this new application. Many cases of whooping-cough have occurred in our own practice, during the past two years, in most of which we had an opportunity of gratifying our desire to test the efficacy of the vaccine inoculation, and the result has been far more flattering than our most sanguine expectations had induced us to anticipate. When the patient was vaccinated in the first or second week of the disease, it seldom failed to interrupt its progress; and we do not hesitate to recommend it in every case of pertussis, where concurrent circumstances do not prevent its introduction.

We wish also the fact may not be forgotten, that this remedy for whooping-cough was first announced by Dr. Archer, an *American Physician*,—the *Edinburgh Review*, and *United States Literary Gazette* to the contrary notwithstanding.

INTELLIGENCE.

MURIATIC ACID IN THE STOMACH. The following are the proofs of the existence of free muriatic acid, which Dr. Prout has laid before the Royal Society. The contents of a stomach having been digested in distilled water, the solution obtained was divided into four equal parts. One of these, evaporated to dryness, burnt and examined in the usual way, gave a quantity of muriatic acid, in combination with fixed gases. A second, being previously saturated with an alkali, was treated in a similar way, and gave the whole quantity of muriatic acid in the stomach. A third, carefully neutralized with a known solution of alkali, gave a quantity of free acid.—The fourth was reserved for any required experiment. In this way, Dr. Prout ascertained that the unsaturated muriatic acid in the stomach was always considerable, and in one case, twenty ounces of a fluid, from a very deranged stomach, afforded him about half a drachm of muriatic acid, of specific gravity 1,160.

Mr. Abraham, an English gentleman, has recently invented an instrument for extracting particles of iron or steel from the eye, which is rather

ingenious. It is well known that artisans, but more especially those who work at turning, dry grinding, &c. are continually exposed to injuries of the eye, from small pieces of metal, which fly with such force as to stick into the conjunctiva, producing great inflammation, and many times a total loss of vision. The invention of Mr. A. is a powerful magnet, so constructed that it can be applied in any direction. On the 12th of March last, he extracted a particle of steel from the eye of a young man, in presence of several surgeons, which had remained in the eye eighteen hours. An instrument of this kind ought to be in the possession of every physician who resides in the neighbourhood of a factory where the workmen are exposed to such accidents.

The operation of *Laryngotomy* was successfully performed at Plattsburgh, N. Y. a few days ago, by Dr. I. H. Patchen, on the person of Franklin Bromley, of Peru, who was suffocated by receiving a bean in his wind-pipe. By inflating his lungs, the use of volatiles, and friction, he revived and breathed through a tube and aperture in the larynx, for nearly three days, when the bean was extracted, the wound closed and healed, and, after a little hoarseness, the parts perfectly restored to their functions.

It is stated that the number of persons vaccinated in Providence, R. I. last month, under the direction of the Town Council, and at the town's expense, was about 650. In addition to this number, nearly 100 persons were vaccinated gratuitously by Dr. Fuller. The great mass of population in that town is believed to be secure from the attacks of small-pox.

The act passed by the legislature of Conn. relative to the disinterment of the dead, prohibits the professors in the Medical Institution from performing any anatomical experiment on the body of any deceased person, until they shall have given bonds in the sum of 2000 dollars, conditioned that no body of any deceased person, illegally obtained, shall be brought into the building belonging to the institution, for the purpose of dissection.

The celebrated French Naturalist, Cuvier, is said to have recently dissected an insect, one inch in length, in which he found 494 pairs of muscles, connected with as many nerves, and 40,000 antennæ! Can the German Doctors outdo this?

Dr. Thomas Welsh, who has been physician to the health department in Boston, nearly thirty years, has been appointed by the common council, resident physician, and Drs. Aaron Dexter, James Jackson, John C. Warren, John Gorham, and Horace Bean, consulting physicians, under the new quarantine regulations.

LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS. By *Websters and Skinners*, Albany.—Elements of Med. Jurisprudence. By T. R. Beck, M. D. Lecturer on Med. Jurisprudence in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District of the State of N. York.—Manual of Botany for the Northern and Middle States of America, containing Generic and Specific Descriptions of the Indigenous Plants and common cultivated Exotics, growing north of Virginia, to which is prefixed a Grammar and Vocabulary; also, the natural orders of Linnaeus and of Jussieu, with the Medicinal Properties of each order. By Amos Eaton, A. M. Prof. of Botany, Chemistry, &c. with an Appendix, by Dr. L. C. Beck. Fourth edition.—Botanical Exercises, including Directions, Rules and Descriptions, calculated to aid Pupils in the Analysis of Plants; with a Labelling Catalogue, for the assistance of Teachers. By Amos Eaton, A. M.

By *James N. Seaman*, N. York.—The eleventh No. of the *Medico-Chirurgical Review and Journal of Med. Science*. Quarterly, London, 5 dols. per annum.

By *E. Littell*, Philadelphia.—No. XIV. of the *Journal of Foreign Medicine*. Edited by John Godman, M. D. [This is on the same plan as the *Museum*, except that it is confined to Medicine.] Price 4 dols. per annum. Published quarterly.—Confessions of an English Opium-Eater; an extract from the Life of a Scholar.

William Wadd, Esq. Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, and Surgeon extraordinary to the

King, has just published a volume, entitled *Nugæ Chirurgicæ*, or a biographical miscellany, illustrative of a collection of professional portraits.

IN PRESS. At the University Press, Cambridge.—*Florula Bostoniensis*, a collection of Plants of Boston and its Vicinity, with their places of growth, times of flowering, and occasional remarks. By Jacob Bigelow, M. D. Second edition, greatly enlarged.

By *J. and J. Harper*, N. York.—Elements of the Etiology and Philosophy of Epidemics, in two parts. By Joseph M. Smith, M. D.

By the *N. York Booksellers*.—Murray's *Materia Medica*, 8vo.

PROPOSED. At Philadelphia.—John R. Coxe, M. D. Prof. of *Materia Medica* in the University of Pennsylvania, has issued proposals for publishing in 3 vols. 8vo, a work to be entitled *Memoria Medica*.

At Paris.—A society of learned men propose publishing a Monthly Journal, entitled *Bulletin Universel des Sciences et de l'Industrie*, of which an account may be seen in this paper, page 27.

DR. WOODWARD. Dr. W. and Dr. Mead had frequent altercations, which at length produced a rencontre. They both drew, but Dr. Mead, not loving cold iron, was retreating, when Woodward, making a false step, fell down. His antagonist then ran in, and, standing over him, demanded if he would submit, and ask his life. "If you threatened me with your *physic*," said Woodward, "I might beg my life: but I certainly shall not ask it for fear of your *sword*."

Dr. Lettsom's manner of signing his prescriptions, "*J. Lettsom*," gave birth to the following, with which the Doctor himself, is said to have been highly amused, and which may, therefore, be introduced, to the credit of his great good humour:—

When patients sad, to me apply,
I physics, bleeds, and sweats 'em;
If, after all, they choose to die,
What's that to me?—*I Lets 'em.*

TO READERS.—We are happy, on more accounts than one, to be able to correct a mistake we made last week, in giving the age of Dr. Goodhue. He is but 65, instead of 75.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Ending June 19th, from the Health-Office Returns.

June 13.—Child of Thomas Tobin, 3 days; Gustavus Tuckerman, 4. 14.—George Martin; Child of Isaac P. Sampson, of Weymouth, 7; Samuel S. Parkman, 33; Mary Allen, 11; —Stevens. 15.—Patty Webber, 56. 16.—Michael Troy, 30. 17.—Jacob Ludwig. 18.—Helen Bangs, 7. 19.—Child of Barnard Mc Lane.

Croup, 1—Syphilis, 1—Drowned, 2—Consumption, 1—Stillborn, 2—Rheumatism, 1—Dropsy, 1—Small-pox, 1, at the Hospital, Rainsford's Island.

Died, at New-Haven, Conn. Dr. William Harrison, of Westmoreland, Oneida Co. N. Y. aged 45.—In Norridgewock, (Me.) Dr. John Harlow, aged 54. In Roxbury, Dr. Noah Fearing, formerly of South Bridgewater.

In Randolph, Vt. on the 13th ult. of an acute inflammatory affection of the lungs, Dr. Ezekiel Bissell, aged 60. Dr. B. was originally from the State of Conn. where he received his preparatory education, and studied his profession. He removed to Randolph soon after the settlement of the town, and has ever since been the principal practising physician in the place. Possessing a clear, comprehensive, and benevolent mind, enlarged by science and experience, he blended those qualities we admire in a man, with those so necessary in a physician.

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OBSERVATIONS.

SPOTTED FEVER.

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer,
by JOB WILSON, M. D. of Salisbury, N. H.
(Continued from page 25.)

Armstrong, p. 121. "Topical inflammation," &c. See Wilson's note on p. 189.—Armstrong, p. 128. "On the contrary," &c. See Wilson's note on p. 197.—Armstrong, p. 128. "Mr. Cavell," &c. Wilson, p. 192. "He is likewise affected with an unusual stupor," &c.—Armstrong, p. 129. "His pulse," &c. Wilson, p. 190. "The pulse in some cases are strong, but never hard."—Armstrong, p. 130. "The pain in my head," &c. Wilson, p. 203. "Opiates," &c.—Armstrong, p. 134. "On the publication," &c. Wilson, p. 81. "On the sixteenth of February," &c.—Armstrong, pp. 134, 135. "The brain and lungs," &c. See Wilson's note on p. 202, note f.—Armstrong, p. 35. "In that species of inflammation which affects the brain," &c. Wilson, p. 83; likewise see p. 165.—Armstrong, p. 135. "In most pulmonary affections," &c. Wilson, p. 206. "Treatment." Likewise see Potter's note on p. 94, note 32.

After all, Dr. Armstrong does not appear to be fully sensible of the power which repeated emetics, and nauseating doses of antimonials possess, in reducing the action of the heart and larger arteries, and thereby, in many instances, superceding the use of the lancet; particularly in that form of inflammation which we denominate passive.

Armstrong, p. 135. "Local blood-letting relieves on the principle of revulsion, or sympathy."—*Quere.* But may not local blood-letting relieve the affected part, from that part on which the operation is performed being reduced relatively, to a greater state of debility than the suffering part, in consequence of its being gorged with blood, relaxed, and otherwise debilitated by the operation of cupping? I have often observed, when blistering the head in passive inflammation, or in the last stage of active inflammation of the brain, that if the hairy scalp swelled, or became puffy, the patient, as far as I can recollect, has uniformly been relieved. Yet I consider a blister, in its first operation, to act as a stimulant, but that this over stimulating, ultimately debilitates the part, and consequently it swells. Hence we would infer, that the inflammation is transferred from an internal, to an external part.

Armstrong, p. 140. "In the north of England," &c.; likewise see pp. 233, 234. Wilson, p. 141. "It appears by the preceding statement," &c.; likewise pp. 144, 145, 146, 147. See Potter's note on p. 141, note 46. See Wilson's note, at the foot of p. 184. "The next effectual mode of treating inflammation," &c.—Armstrong, p. 149. "When the trachea," &c. Wilson, p. 197. "Emetics," &c.; likewise pp. 201, 202. "Treatment," &c.; likewise p. 198. "From the facility with which the heart and larger arteries throw the blood," &c.—Armstrong, p. 149. "In the chronic species of tracheal affection," &c.; like-

wise p. 49. "Four instances," &c. See Wilson's account of the disease last mentioned, in the N. York Medical Repository, New Series, Vol. IV. p. 88.—Armstrong. "There is one point of infinite importance," &c. Wilson, p. 194. "This disease," &c.; likewise p. 195, plate opposite to p. 165, and p. 204. "In some cases, the sloughing extends quite to the stomach, and more frequently to the lungs, ears, nose," &c.

If we consider the above sentence, and the derangement which the lungs have suffered, as represented in plate third, and the brain in plate first, we shall have the most convincing evidence that however easy it may be to arrest fever in its first onset, yet after the system has suffered such important injuries, the fever must continue of necessity for a considerable time, should the patient survive. Many other particulars might be named, which from their nature, when they occur, must of necessity protract the fever until they are removed.

Armstrong, p. 83. "But I have hardly ever met with a case of the true congestive typhus, in which the first stage was accompanied with universal shivering." Likewise see p. 158. "In both its simple and inflammatory varieties, typhus unquestionably is a disease of excitement; but this cannot be said of it under its congestive form." Those cases only deserve the name of congestive, in which it is so great, as either wholly to suppress the excitement, or to render it very partial and irregular. See Wilson, pp. 151, 152, 153, 154, 157, 158, 159, 160, 165, 166. Likewise see the symptoms, pp. 189, 190.

After carefully examining the above references, the reader will perceive, that the disease which we describe, is really of the congestive form, and by far more violent than the one described by Dr. Armstrong. Yet, very different from what he would incline us to believe, both the cold or shivering fit, and the hot fit, or stage of excitement, are in most cases fairly developed. Armstrong, pp. 164, 165. "The patient speedily immersed," &c. Wilson, pp. 208, 209. "Treatment."—Armstrong, p. 168. "Bring out the reaction," &c. By comparing this last sentence with the preceding references, we at once discover the main bearing of our author's pathology; he really infers as though reaction would never follow, unless the patient was bled.

(To be continued.)

MEDICAL SCIENCE IN AMERICA.

After some remarks on American literature, a writer in the Frederick Town Examiner observes, that

"On the more important subjects of philosophy and science, America can boast of productions which would put the authors of kindred ones of European origin to the blush, if brought in competition. To enumerate the various subjects on which Americans have become successful candidates for literary fame, would swell the present remarks to an improper bulk: but the cultivators of medical science, from the variety and importance of their literary productions, ought not to be passed in silence. Various circumstances conspire to render the literary labors

more numerous in this than in any other class of men. Destined to witness and called upon to relieve the diseases of their fellow beings—diseases as various in their phenomena, as the different organs and textures of the human frame, duty as well as necessity compels them to make active exertions and indefatigable research to keep the mind prepared for a conscientious discharge of the duties of the profession with that promptitude which is often required. As well might we see a saint without practical devotion, as an able, scientific and conscientious physician, without habitual study. The same causes which induce the philanthropic physician to consume the midnight lamp in quest of knowledge, will prompt him to make an effort to become more extensively useful, by communicating the result of his experience and reflections to his professional brethren. The thirst for distinction and fame, common to all men in some degree, doubtless operates as an additional, and with many, as a more powerful motive.

Another circumstance which is too much neglected by the indolent part of the profession, is well calculated to stimulate the votaries of medical science in America, to exercise their talents in literary composition. A disease which bears the same name, frequently presents different phenomena, and requires a modification of treatment under constitutional circumstances, in different latitudes, in the same latitude at different seasons, and even during the same season under different local circumstances. This may in some measure account for the discrepancy of opinions among medical philosophers. Hence it is evident that American physicians cannot rely as securely on foreign publications, as those that devote their attention to the cultivation of the sciences which are uniform and invariable in their phenomena. Hence too, the encouragement that is, and ever should be extended to the medical periodical publications of our vastly extensive country, the varieties of climate, soil, &c. of which, are not its least interesting features, when contemplated by the medical philosopher.

Without intending any disparagement to the other periodical medical journals of our country, I will at present advert to but one. "The Medical Recorder," conducted by Dr. Calhoun, and published quarterly in Philadelphia, is a work entitled, not only to the patronage, but to the attentive perusal of every physician and medical student in the United States. It is truly an independent work. Under the thralldom of no scholastic dogma, and pledged to support no particular medical college to the prejudice of another, it is exempt from one of the most fatal circumstances which too often attend works of this description—the promulgation of error, under the imposing influence of a respectable university.

In addition to the important facts, original essays, and interesting reviews, each number of the work is enriched by an abstract of the improvements in medical science, collected from the best English, French and German periodical journals. The best evidence of the intrinsic merits of the work, is derived from the fact, that

it is well spoken of by the associate of those men who declared that "*the supreme felicity of a true born American is inaction of body, and inactivity of mind.*"—(Quarterly Review.) Some of the original essays have been translated into different languages, and republished in foreign periodical journals. It may be considered a focus which collects and irradiates the most important medical information. The proprietor of the work (Mr. Webster) is entitled to the gratitude of the medical profession and the community, for his activity, zeal, and indefatigable exertion to render the work both interesting and useful.

ALBINOS.

This term was originally applied to certain Negroes found in Africa, who have light hair, blue eyes, and skins of a pale and livid whiteness. Their eyes are so delicate that they can hardly see any object in the day, or bear the rays of the sun, and yet, when the moon shines, they see as well, and run through the deepest shades of their forest, with as much ease and activity as other men do in the brightest day-light. Their complexion is delicate; they are less robust and vigorous than other men; they generally sleep in the day, and go abroad in the night. It was for a time a subject of dispute, whether these men were a permanent and distinct variety of the human race, or merely individuals accidentally varying from the usual characteristics of their species. It was found, however, that the same thing occurred in Java, in Ceylon, and among the copper coloured Indians about the Isthmus of Darien, and it has long since been ascertained that this peculiarity is merely accidental, and not confined, as was formerly supposed, to Negroes and Indians alone, but that it occurs occasionally among whites also, with this difference, that the eyes of the Negro Albinos are blue, and their hair is light coloured, while among the whites, the iris of the eye is rose coloured, and the pupil, when viewed in the light, is red, and their hair is oftentimes perfectly white.

Several accounts of Albinos among the whites are on record, among the first of which is that of two brothers at Chamouni, mentioned by M. Saussure. "In their infancy, their hair, eyebrows, eye-lashes, and the down upon their skin, were very fine, and of a perfect milk white colour; but at the age of 20, their hair was of a reddish cast, and more strong. Their sight was also strengthened, and, even in their infancy, was not much offended by the light of the day." The same author mentions a woman of Milan who had seven sons, of whom, the two eldest and the two youngest had brown hair and black eyes; the other three had white skins, white hair, and red eyes.

Five instances of Albinos have come within our knowledge. Two of them were daughters of a relation of the writer of this article, and have been dead several years. The third was the celebrated Miss Hervey, from England, who was exhibited in many parts of the United States, a few years since, under the appellation of "the beautiful Albiness. She was afterwards married in the West Indies, and died there. The other two were brothers, in the southern part of Connecticut, with one of whom we were slightly acquainted. He was genteel in his manners, well informed, intelligent and sociable, which,

combined with the peculiarity of his appearance, excited an interest such as is rarely felt toward a stranger. His beard, which was thick and strong, and his hair, were of a snowy whiteness, and would have given him the venerable appearance of four score, were it not that his delicately fair complexion, and his plump and unfurrowed cheek, had the youthful look of twenty one. It was difficult to reconcile the idea, that that face and that hair and beard should belong to the same person. A rose-bush, budding and flowering in the midst of the snows of winter, would not have appeared more singular.—An almost uncontrollable desire was felt to rest the eye upon him, and nothing but a regard to decency and good manners would have restrained it. His eyes were so delicate that he constantly wore green spectacles closely fitted to them.

Although the causes of this phenomenon have been a subject of considerable inquiry, it still remains one of those anomalies in nature, of which we have determined nothing but their existence, and affords matter for curious speculation and investigation to the scientific world.—*Mass. Spy.*

WARM BATHS.

(Concluded from page 27.)

The mode of bathing, which among the Hindoos is termed *shampooing*, has of late been introduced into many parts of England, but never, as yet, been adopted in this country. The inhabitants of Hindostan are the most cleanly people of the east, and have brought the methods of using the various species of warm and medicated baths to such perfection, as to supersede the necessity of medicine in a great number of diseases, which in other countries require a succession of internal remedies.

The native practitioners of India are aware that a languid circulation, and an inactive state of the animal functions, are the cause of many obstinate and serious complaints, which are but protracted, and often aggravated, by the use of medicine,—and it is in diseases of this class that they resort most frequently, and with most success, to their favourite practice of shampooing.—With them, the process is simple;—it consists in enveloping the body in steam arising from a decoction of aromatic medicinal plants, and at the same time rubbing the whole surface with considerable force.

In Persia, the process is rather more complicated.—The bather is extended upon a sheet spread on the floor of the bathing hall, and pailsful of heated water are poured over him, in quick succession, till his whole body is well drenched and heated. The attendant then takes the head of his employer on his knees, and rubs a paste, made of the Henna plant, into his beard and mustachios. The process of affusion is then repeated, and the attendant next puts on a glove, made of hair and possessing no small degree of the scrubbing-brush qualities, with which he rubs the limbs and body for about three quarters of an hour. A third splashing with the pail, ushers in the operation of the pumice-stone, which is pretty thoroughly applied to the soles of the feet. The henna paste being washed away, the hair is dyed by another pomade, called *rang*, and made of the leaves of the Indigo plant. To this succeeds the pinching, pulling, and rubbing, which is done with so much force and pressure, as to produce a violent glow over the whole frame. All the joints are then strained till they crack, and so much do the natives delight in this process, and to such perfection have they brought

it, that the dorsal vertebræ are cracked with almost as much facility as the joints of the fingers. This delightful operation over, the shampooed body is rubbed all over with soap until it is covered with lather, which is soon washed off by warm water, and the whole is completed by plunging the body into a cistern, where it remains 5 or 6 minutes, until it is perfectly cleansed.—The bather is then taken from the pure element, and has a large warm, dry sheet thrown over him, in which he makes his escape to the dressing room.

Now this method may answer very well for the inhabitants of Persia and Hindostan, but sparing ourselves the fruitless labor of advising our readers to follow the example of their oriental brethren, we beg leave to recommend the more suitable application of the principle on which its efficacy depends.

The mere circumstance of being sometime immersed in warm water, produces a beneficial effect on the system, we apprehend, in three different ways. First, it removes from the skin the matter of perspiration which in some persons more than others, gathers round and obstructs its pores. In the second place, it excites a free evacuation from those pores, and thereby affords relief to internal organs,—and in the third place, it allows the skin itself to recover its freshness and vigor, by relieving it of the external load and internal pressure by which it had been encumbered.

By uniting *friction* with the warm bath, all these advantages will be increased in degree, and rendered more permanent; and we would therefore suggest the propriety of a free use of a coarse crash towel *whilst in the bath*, and again after coming out of it. If this process be continued till the whole surface is red and glowing, there will be no danger of taking cold, with ordinary caution, and we shall have all the permanent benefits of the *mud and water* bath, without its inconveniences,—all the cleansing properties of the *mall* bath, without its dangers, and all the healthful and invigorating qualities of *shampooing*, without the trouble of its *pomades*, or the pain of its pullings and pinchings.

To those already enumerated, we may add one word on *Gaseous baths*. These are in high repute in France and Germany, and a surgeon of great professional eminence in London, has recently introduced them into that city. The apparatus for their exhibition is so constructed, as to enable the physician to envelope the body of his patient in the fumes of sulphur, mercury, tar, chlorine, &c. as the case may require. Two benefits are expected to result from this species of bath;—the first is, to repress cutaneous eruptions, and cure the diseases of the skin—and the second is, to introduce into the system various substances through the medium of that extensive and porous organ.

We seldom find in this country a case in which disease affects the surface of the body to such an extent as to require so diffuse a remedy; and as there are other equally certain, though perhaps, not so elegant methods of producing specific actions in the system, we are inclined to think the gaseous baths would be, among us, rather a luxury than a means of great usefulness.

DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

Dr. Willan, of London, was one of the most learned and distinguished physicians of his day; and throughout the British dominions, among those who were afflicted with any cutaneous eruption, to "go up to Dr. Willan," was considered almost synonymous with to get rid of the disease. By devoting himself particularly to this class of disorders, an opportunity was afforded him not only of giving relief to many who had

been generally considered incurable, but of extending his own observations on the peculiar character and various forms assumed by those diseases which fix upon the surface of the body. The result of these observations, it was the design of Dr. Willan to publish to the world, since he was daily more and more impressed with the belief that the pathology of the skin was too much neglected by the faculty.

The diseases of this organ were arranged by him under eight different *Orders*, which may be readily distinguished from each other. The *Genera*, however, and above all the *Species* pointed out by Dr. Willan, are sometimes distinguished by shades of difference so very slight, that it is impossible they should be all recognised by any one who has not had an opportunity of seeing them exemplified. It is a species of knowledge which is but imperfectly acquired from books, and to which no one can attain without the advantage of attending to cutaneous affections at Hospitals designed for their relief.

Having published one large and valuable volume, embracing a critical and learned discussion of the history, diagnosis and treatment of his four first orders, Dr. Willan, whose health had been a long time feeble, sought a more congenial climate: but he fell a victim to a disease of the lungs, and left his plan but partly executed. By the assistance of his notes, and a great intimacy with this distinguished man, Dr. Bateman, who had long been his disciple, was enabled to complete a dissertation upon the four remaining orders on the original plan. The abridged work of the late Dr. B. is now the most popular work on the cutaneous diseases, both in Great Britain and this country; and we suspect there are few physicians among us, who have ever had an opportunity of seeing any other treatise on this subject. The works of Mercurialis, Hasenreffer, Bonacursius, Turner, Lorry, and Plenck—of Willan, Wilkinson, and Alibert, are extremely rare, and we have met with no inconsiderable difficulty in procuring even the plates of Dr. Bateman.

Nearly 150 different species of cutaneous disease are enumerated by Dr. B. and most of them are curable; yet we have no doubt great numbers are suffering under painful and obstinate affections of the skin, which, with skilful management, might be readily removed.

SOMNAMBULISM.

We have recently noticed several articles under this head going the rounds in the newspapers. No one has appeared so worthy of notice, as that which states, on very respectable authority, that a youth was in the habit of rising in the night, lighting a candle, and studying his lesson. This completed, he extinguished his light, and retired again to bed. It is said that this young man would recite his lesson with unusual accuracy, although he had acquired it *during sleep*, and that he was perfectly unconscious of having ever risen from the bed, or looked at his books.

It appears to us that this must be explained in one of three ways;—either the whole is a falsehood,—the original facts are very much exaggerated,—or the boy really arose for the purpose of getting his lesson, and was *wide awake*, although, either (from some motive not very difficult to imagine,) he chose to conceal it, or he was so much absorbed in his subject, that his movements were the result of what is understood by absence of mind. From the names mentioned in the account, we are inclined to adopt the latter explanation.

The involuntary motions—the motions of organic life, are performed with equal certainty, and more regularity, during sleep, than when awake. It is only the animal functions which are suspended—the faculties of the brain and nerves, and the actions which are the result of the will. As, however, sleep is often imperfect, some of the mental faculties are indistinctly in action, and exert a certain degree of power over the system; but that power is exercised with the same imperfection and indistinctness, as exist in the irregular and unguided ideas which prompt us to exert it. Could the mind take cognizance of these ideas, they would be regulated, and not allowed to influence the conduct. As, however, they do often influence the conduct, it follows that the mind does not take cognizance of them; when, therefore, the imaginations which excite to action have run their course, or ceased to exist, and the actions excited have terminated with them, all has transpired without the knowledge of the understanding, and hence, when the sleeping hours are passed, the somnambulist is perfectly unconscious that he had left his pillow.

But when we are told that an individual arises in his sleep, and studies his lessons so that the next day he can recite them, we immediately reply, that if the mind takes such cognizance of one thing that passes, as to be able to remember it, it must be equally capable of taking cognizance of other things;—if it receives and treasures up ideas from a book, it must be equally capable of receiving them from other objects connected with that book; and although the individual who studies, by night as well as by day, may be almost wholly absorbed in his occupation, if his mind receives distinct ideas from its efforts, it cannot be in that state we understand by sleep.

It is true that we frequently recollect our dreams so as to relate them in the morning; but there is a difference, in regard to this, between ideas that are *originated* in the mind, and those which are *acquired*; and a suspension of those functions by which we derive ideas from external objects, is the most indispensable part of the very definition of sleep. It is far from being improbable, therefore, that the boy was impelled to this habit by excessive emulation to excel his school-fellows, and was so intent upon his lesson, that the circumstances attending the mode in which he acquired it, made no impression on his memory. But here was *only* a defect of *memory*—the person was decidedly awake, though absorbed in the object of his pursuit;—and we are the more inclined to believe this the real state of the case, since, of all the powers of the mind, none is so apt to fail of performing its office, as that which, in this instance, was deficient.

It may seem a little remarkable that the power by which we retain all our ideas, should of itself be most likely to leave us;—but the fact is undoubted. Diseases which impair the intellect, affect the memory first and most permanently. By the Plague of Athens, this power was, in a vast number of cases, so entirely lost, that friends and relations even were forgotten. A fall or a blow often deprives a person of memory, whilst it leaves the understanding perfectly unimpaired. A learned author was once deprived of all his learning in a moment, by a blow from a folio, which fell from one of the shelves of his library; and Beattie tells us that he was personally acquainted with a clergyman who so completely lost his memory by a fit of apoplexy, that he delighted to read the newspapers of the last 4 years, and found every thing they contained perfectly new to

him, though he had been famed for the attention with which he had perused them before his attack. Memory is the first, too, of the mental powers which is impaired by old age.

Whichever then of the views we have taken shall be considered the most correct in accounting for the peculiarities of the case which occasioned these remarks, of this we feel assured, that, although the mind may easily recall ideas *which itself has created* during partial sleep, yet, if the youth *acquired* distinct ideas, and treasured them up in his memory, he could not have been asleep, and the remaining facts cease to constitute a phenomenon.

POISON BY THE BITE OF A VIPER.

A recent English publication contains the history of a "case of poisoning by the bite of a viper, cured by the affusion of cold water, by Dr. G. Prina." The young patient was severely affected by the poison which had been introduced into his system, and he was persuaded to visit a cascade which was near his father's residence, and permit the torrent to flow on his head and body several times a day. Under this course he rapidly recovered from a state which had given his friends great cause to fear he could never be raised.—The *only* thing which was done to the wound was to bathe it with nitrous æther, and afterwards dress it with a decoction of marsh-mallows; and the patient took *no* medicine, excepting 3 1-3 grains of pure ammonia every hour from the time his physician first saw him.

The effect of cold affusion was in this case, we suspect, a good deal like that of Madam Nouffer's famous remedy for worms. She recommended a powder of the dried root of the polypodium filix, or male fern, to be taken at night, and a drastic cathartic on the following morning. This powder was long considered a specific for worms, until it was accidentally discovered that it was wholly inert, and owed all its celebrity to the powerful medicine which was directed to be given after it.

The Dr. Prina, however, is rather more unfortunate than was Madam Nouffer, since the carbonate of ammonia has, for several years past, been esteemed the most powerful remedy for the various species of animal poison.

NEW MEDICAL PAPER.

We have received the first number of a new medical paper, published in Philadelphia. It contains some articles of local interest, and we most heartily wish it may meet with *such* patronage as it merits; for there is no species of publication calculated to be more useful, or which ought, *in our opinion*, to be more liberally supported than medical newspapers.

We hope the editor of the work we have here noticed, will excuse us for suggesting that his vignette might be improved, as so frightful an animal as a *rattle-snake* is rather an unpleasant object to strike the eye on first opening a paper. We would also remark, that since he quotes a motto from Hippocrates, it would have been as well to have quoted it in the original Greek, or, if he prefers the Latin, to have quoted that *correctly*. We cannot but express, too, our regret that he has not informed us, in any part of the paper, how often we may expect to be favoured with it; we presume it will be once a year, *at least*, and perhaps once a day. All this we say purely for his own advantage, as we consider it certain, that without some very essential alterations, the "*VITA BREVIS*" of his motto must be

speedily exemplified in the paper itself. We shall look with no little interest for the improvements here alluded to, and ever be happy to do all in our power to promote the interest of any publication, when it is calculated to extend medical information, or increase the benefits of medical science.

REPORTS.

COLCHICUM IN TENIA.

By DR. CRISHOLM.

Mr. ———, a very respectable farmer, (whose name and address are in the possession of the Editors,) had been afflicted with tape-worm for ten years. He had applied to regular practitioners, and had tried the whole routine of anthelmintics with only temporary benefit; his farrier, too, "had given him turpentine enough to kill a horse," but with the same result. Having had a case in which the vinum colchici, given for rheumatism, brought away a considerable quantity of tape-worm, I was induced to try it; and for that purpose furnished Mr. ———, with 2 ounces of the vinum colchici, (made after Dr. Marcet's recipe,) and desired him to take a teaspoonful, in a little water, two or three times a day. On the third or fourth day he passed a large quantity of the worm, and continued to take the medicine for a week, but did not pass any more worm. He has been perfectly free from it for more than three years. It may be remarked, that he took no medicine whatever but the colchicum. I regret that I have not been able to learn if the medicine was equally efficacious in the case above alluded to.

In this case, the turpentine, given in large doses, failed in effecting a cure, (though parts of the worm passed after its use,) and the colchicum succeeded. Should this medicine be found, on further trial, to act with certainty, it will be a great acquisition, as the dose is small, and the taste by no means disagreeable.—*Lon. Med. Rep.*

TAR-VAPOUR IN PERTUSSIS.

By MR. WANSERROUGH.

A fine healthy child, twelve months old, was attacked with violent symptoms of pertussis.—The paroxysms were so severe as to threaten suffocation. The disease had existed nearly six weeks when I was called upon to attend. Inflammation of the lungs had supervened. The child refused the breast, and was exceedingly restless and uneasy from dyspnoea. I ordered the warm bath, and three leeches to the scrobiculus cordis, purged her briskly, and ultimately continued with antimonials and expectorants. In the course of twenty-four hours from my first visit, a considerable amendment was observed, the urgency of the symptoms being very much abated. A blister to the chest closed the active measures; and three days after, the inflammatory diathesis completely subsided. The paroxysms of the cough, nevertheless, were still violent, though the frequency of them declined with the concomitant symptoms. In short, the little patient appeared likely to conquer this formidable foe; when, unfortunately, she was accidentally exposed to a current of air, which gave her cold, and increased the cough violently during night. I again saw her on the following morning; and, unwilling to have recourse to the former measures for her relief, I determined on applying the vapour of tar, the absence of in-

flammatory symptoms warranting the application. Her breathing was short and oppressed, but the difficulty appeared to arise more from accumulation of mucus in the bronchiæ than irritation. My idea was to bring the remedy in contact with the part or parts affected, and thereby expedite the effect. If, therefore, the remedy were likely to prove beneficial, the fact would be proved and illustrated by ocular demonstration. I decomposed a portion of petroleum Barbadosense, by dipping into it a red hot iron; the end of a common poker answered the purpose conveniently. The child was held over the vapour as it arose, observing not to let her inhale it until sufficiently diluted by a due portion of atmospheric air. My little patient no sooner inhaled this gaseous compound, than she exhibited manifest signs of relief. Instead of avoiding the volume of vapour as it arose from the vessel, which I feared would be the case, she willingly inhaled it, and suffered the tar to be placed almost under her nostrils. The effect was conspicuous, in relieving the pressure under which the little sufferer laboured: expectoration was promoted, and rendered nearly free from effort, by this remedy. In short, after six exhibitions of the vapour, the cough almost ceased; and without the aid of any auxiliary the child perfectly recovered.—*Id.*

INTELLIGENCE.

ELECTRIC MACHINES. A variation in the construction of plate electric machines, has lately been devised and put in practice by M. Metzger, of Sibbingen, in Shaffhouse, which would seem a real improvement, considering that the effect desired in using it was first highly to excite the glass, and then to collect the electricity from it. M. Metzger concluded that the distance between the rubber and the points of the conductor in machines of common construction, diminishes the effects, not only by causing the dispersion, in part, of the electricity excited, but by uselessly wasting the exciting surface. Plates were therefore mounted in a very compact and perfect manner, with 3 pairs of rubbers, placed at equal distances from each other, towards the periphery of the plate. The machine has a very neat and compact appearance, and its various smaller parts are contrived with much judgment. In some comparative experiments made with a plate 22 inches in diameter, the superiority of 3 pairs of cushions over 2 pair, was manifest. In the following table, the first column expresses the length of the rubbers; the second, the length of the spark when 2 pairs of rubbers were used; and the third, the length of the spark when 3 pairs were on the machine.

6 inches	12 inches	18 inches
7	14	21
8	16	24
9	18	27
10	20	30

HEALTH REGULATIONS. The Common Council of this city have passed an ordinance, requiring that no animal or vegetable substance shall be deposited in any street, court, square, lane, alley, public place, vacant lot, or pond; that no dead animal matter, or offensive ballast of any kind, be thrown into any dock, and that all house offal shall be removed from the city, at least twice every week, during the months of June, July, August and September, of each year—that all waste water be conveyed under ground to the com-

mon sewers;—that no swine or goats be kept within the limits of the city, unless by a license, and under the direction of the Mayor and Aldermen;—that the occupants of livery and other stables, keep their stables and stable yards clean, and do not allow their horses or carriages to be washed or cleaned in any public street;—and that no damaged grain, coffee or rice, be landed in any part of the city without a permit from the Mayor and Aldermen. Besides these, all the usual regulations for preserving the health of the inhabitants, are rigidly enforced by our vigilant and effective police.

MEDICAL SCHOOL IN BOSTON. The Medical Lectures in this city will commence on the third Wednesday in November.—Anatomy and Surgery, by Dr. Warren; Chemistry, by Dr. Gorham; Midwifery and Medical Jurisprudence, by Dr. Channing; Materia Medica, by Dr. Bigelow; Theory and Practice of Physic, by Dr. Jackson.

At a meeting of the Medical Society of the county of Windsor, Vt., holden at Windsor the 3th inst. the following officers were chosen for the year ensuing, viz:—Erastus Torrey, M. D. President; Dr. Nahum Trask, Vice President; John Burnell, M. D. Secretary; Dr. Moses Cobb, Treasurer; Erastus Torrey, M. D., John Burnell, M. D., Dr. Moses Cobb, Censors; Dr. W. P. Gibson, Librarian; and Dr. Ptolemy Edson, Delegate, to represent the Society in the State Medical Society, and to read a dissertation at the next meeting of the County Society, to be holden at Barker's Hotel in Woodstock, the 2d Tuesday of June, 1825.

Dr. John Edwards Holbrook, has been appointed Professor of Anatomy, in the Medical School of South Carolina.

A perfect skeleton of an adult human body was recently dug from a mound of earth a little distance from Merrimack river in Concord, N. H. by workmen on the high way. The hemlock bark in which it was enclosed had not been consumed. The skull and teeth, and even the toe and finger joints were perfect; and the appearance of the skeleton indicated a recent burial.—The bones must have been those of one of the aboriginal inhabitants, and, calculating the shortest time, have probably been buried more than 100 years. Other bones, in a more imperfect state, have since been found near those above mentioned.

The Small-pox Hospital Physician at York, (Me.) states that the small-pox which made its appearance on the 21st of April, in the Bowden family, has entirely disappeared. Of 45 persons who have been affected with this loathsome disease, 11 have died. No new case whatever has taken place of late.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS. We intend adding some explanatory remarks on the article "Albinos," when less occupied than at present.—Communications from Dr. M. of Conn. shall meet with attention as soon as possible.—We are happy to acknowledge the rapid increase of our subscribers in various parts of the United States, and hope the high expectations they are good enough to express, will not be disappointed. To Dr. Hosack, of N. York, we feel particularly obliged for his politeness.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Ending June 25th, from the Health-Office Returns.

June 20.—Mary Frances Johnson, 8 weeks; Barnard Boyden, 49; Isaac Trask, 21; Joseph Tucker, 55. 21.—Michael Powars; Lawrence Ryan; Dorothy Ridout, 31. 23.—Thomas Bonney; George Sweet, jr. 25.—Mary Ann Hosea, 1 mo.; Eliza Hewes.

Infantile, 1—Lung-Fever, 1—Liver Complaint, 1—Consumption, 1—Canker in the Bowels, 1.

Died, in Haverhill, Mass. Dr. Amos Currier, aged 32, formerly of Atkinson, N. H.

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BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, JULY 6, 1824.

No. 8.

OBSERVATIONS.

SPOTTED FEVER.

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer,
by JOB WILSON, M. D. of Salisbury, N. H.

(Concluded from page 29.)

Wilson, p. 196. "The action of the heart and larger arteries may be excited," &c. Armstrong, p. 185. "Yet I hardly know a better guide," &c. "Relaxed, soft skin," &c. Likewise p. 186. "Diminution of the heart's action," &c. "Soft and weak pulse, in some cases quick, in others slow," &c.—See Wilson's notes on p. 194, note first and second. Likewise see note on p. 197. "The muscular fibre cannot distend itself," &c.; and p. 192. "A fullness is felt near the heart," &c.; and p. 193. Likewise see account of spotted fever, in the New-York Medical Repository, New Series. Armstrong, p. 188. "Would the application of the galvanic fluid, or the inhalation of oxygenated air be useful?"—Wilson's 2d note on p. 209. See Potter's note on pp. 119, 120, note 42. We have observed typhus fevers that never could have been treated advantageously, at any period of their existence, by any mode of depletion. Armstrong, pp. 127, 135. "In that species of inflammation which affects the bronchia," &c. p. 143. "It cannot be too often repeated," &c. p. 146. "After a few," &c. p. 169. "It may be requisite to draw blood, in order to give the patient a chance for life." p. 179. "It has been suggested to me by some experienced friends," &c. See pp. 185, 255.

From the preceding pages of our author, it appears that bleeding was with him a very general remedy, even in typhus. In that form of typhus which he appears to describe, it is probable that it was often highly beneficial, and in some other cases it might not be very injurious; however, in a disease which we have not seen, it would be very improper to give a decided opinion; yet, to recommend blood-letting as a sweeping, or almost universal remedy, in all the grades of typhus, as they occur in all countries and climates, as our author's work would seem to imply, appears to me to be going too far; and this induction of Dr. Armstrong, apparently is predicated on the principle, that congestive typhus almost uniformly terminates fatally, unless prevented by bleeding. Though, on the other hand, our author repeatedly warns the practitioner by no means to let blood, except in such circumstances, as in his views warrant the operation, and in many of these particulars, especially as respects the stage of excitement, I think his remarks to be highly judicious, yet in the congestive form of typhus, he does not appear to be so fortunate; he even tells us that we must ascertain the propriety of blood-letting, by the effect of the operation; and if the pulse sink under the operation, we must desist. But may not even this experiment be made at the hazard of the patient? Dr. Armstrong surely would say not, for the disease is necessarily fatal, or almost always so, if not prevented by blood-letting. Yet notwithstanding all this, it is a fact beyond doubt, or even the hazard of a denial,

that we have often seen cases of the congestive typhus, some of which, from the symptoms described, we should suppose far exceeded in violence, those described by Dr. Armstrong, which have yielded to other remedies than bleeding; for which we refer the reader to the history of the winter epidemic, in 1812, 1813, 1814, and 1815.

But here it may be asked, how shall we treat those desperate forms of congestive typhus, where an emetic cannot be borne? and in fact, where no other medicine will set on the stomach, the pulse not perceptible at the wrist, &c.? In 1821, I had three cases of congestive typhus, in two of which, the pulse were not perceptible at the wrist, one, in both radial arteries, and in the other case, in one for some time; the pupils of the eyes were likewise dilated, and any medicine which was given by the mouth, was almost as soon rejected, indicating extreme cases of congestive typhus. In the third case, as nearly as I can recollect, the pulse at times were not perceptible at the wrist, his nose and extremities cold, a death-like purple countenance, extreme relaxation of the muscular fibre, and extreme sinking fits, though at times violent reaction; a fit of each of which, would naturally occur once in twenty-four hours, and were so important, that apparently, if the one had risen, or the other fallen, to their usual degrees of variation, the life of the patient must have been thereby destroyed: so that the patient's life appeared to depend on our timing the medicine to the state of the disease;—viz., to keep up the action in the cold stage, and almost entirely obviate the hot fit, or stage of reaction, by giving antimonials, a little prior to its accession, and continuing them until that period was nearly past, and then having recourse to stimulants, till the cold stage, or sinking fit was nearly past.—Yet in consequence of the absence of the attending physician, though but for a few minutes, the patient's life was twice jeopardized, and brought as it were to the brink of the grave; for so certain it was, in this extreme case, that these indications must be nearly completely fulfilled, or, in all human probability, the death of the patient must have been the consequence.

Early in this disease, it was necessary to excite reaction, by raising blisters expeditiously, by applying cloths, wet in hot water, to the inside of the arms; likewise red pepper was applied, generally in a dry state, and warm applications and sinapisms to the feet; after which, vitriolic æther was given in large doses, as an emetic; then spirit terebinth, to the quantity of a table-spoonful to a dose, frequently repeated, and a strong solution of G. guiac., sp. lavender, R. Sorptania Virginia, &c. In the hot fit, antimonials, R. ipicac. &c., and a strong solution of opium; and in the cold fit, blisters were applied to the side, which was inflamed.

In the other case, reaction was excited by raising blisters on the inside of the arms, with cloths dipped in hot water, friction with red pepper, warm applications to the feet, and afterwards blisters, with flies; internally, sp. tere-

binth, in large doses, æther, and, as soon as the action of the heart and larger arteries was sufficiently excited, an emetic. The other case was treated nearly in the same manner, except blistering was omitted.

So in fact, we see that congestive typhus, in its most violent form, may be cured by other remedies than phlebotomy. But I would not infer, but there may be cases, even in what is called congestive typhus, in which bleeding may be proper. Since 1818, I have bled several patients, in what Dr. Armstrong calls typhus, with various success; and some in that form of disease which is called congestive typhus, one of which was an extreme case as respects the pulse, which were full and strong, though not very frequent, and appeared to be on the very line of demarcation; I could not say that they were hard, and I think they were not soft. The patient appeared to be materially benefited by the operation. The pulse sunk astonishingly, from a very small bleeding in the temporal artery.

It surely would be very desirable, in a point of such importance, if a plain criterion could be established, whereby at least we could very generally satisfy ourselves, when it was proper to let blood, and when not to; and happily, in this point, we appear to agree. Dr. Armstrong, in pp. 185, 186, says, that he hardly knows of a better guide, than a hard pulse is for bleeding, and a soft pulse for not bleeding. See Wilson's Inquiry, p. 194. "Active inflammation is distinguished from passive, from the pulse being hard and tense, and from the resistance which the capillaries oppose to the action of the heart and larger arteries." Likewise see note on p. 197. "Bleeding will make a soft pulse still softer, and a weak pulse still weaker." The reader will be aware, taking all the circumstances under consideration, that it is extremely dangerous to pass the bounds above described; and on any occasion, if we approach the extreme point, we should be aware that the situation of our patient is very delicate.

EUROPEAN MEDICAL SOCIETIES, MED. JOURNALS, AND MED. CRITICISM.

Translated and abridged from the *Journal General de Medicine*, published at Paris, April, 1819, and
Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer,
by THOMAS MINER, M. D. of Middletown, Conn.

NO. I.

We have long hesitated with respect to the propriety of publishing the following reflections, and it is not difficult to anticipate our reasons.—Co-operating ourselves in editing a journal, our praises and our censures must appear alike suspicious. However, is it not useful, is it not necessary, to have precise notions of the true character of medical criticism, of what it actually is, and what it ought to be? We think so, and this is what induces us to publish our ideas upon the subject. By this means, perhaps, we may elicit something more important from others. The subject is new, and worthy of consideration.—The greatest difficulty consists, in speaking openly and freely our opinions, when the truth de-

mands it. To form an article which either means nothing or means too much, to tire the reader or to wound his pride,—these are the shoals and quicksands which we are to avoid. Upon this point, the chapter of considerations is endless. We have been necessitated to read these speculations again and again, before we could presume to trust them out of our hands.—Besides, our reflections are applicable only to periodical publications. The highest order of criticism, the investigation of the first principles of art, we leave to the more learned.

If our views are just, we shall not be surprised to find, that medical criticism is infinitely below that of any of the other branches of literature and science. All our journals march in the same line, pursue the same track, notwithstanding the popularity of some, and the pompous professions of others. They are deceived, who believe that periodical works are of eminent service to medical science. Their number is so much increased as to injure their interests, and nearly to destroy their emulation. Nothing is more questionable than their utility, as they are commonly conducted. The reason is, they are defective as a whole, having no general views, no precise object, no determinate plan. This is a radical defect. The same remarks, with certain limitations, will apply to medical societies, which are so numerous at the present day.—Though formed of men of unquestionable merit, how is it possible, with a few honourable exceptions, that their associated labours can produce those results which we have a right to expect from such distinguished individuals? Leibnitz said, that a hundred persons associated together, can do more in one year, than one man alone, in a hundred years. We boldly and utterly deny the truth of this assertion. Have not Hippocrates, Sydenham, and Bichat, done more for medicine than many learned societies? A great man creates, a society collects. The latter is a real advantage, yet it is only of secondary consequence. But it is said, a common effort, an united force, enlarges and extends the bounds of art. This theory, however plausible, is contradicted by experience. Do we ever see in a society, that boldness of conception, that intensity of research, that unity of design, that precise end, which are to be found in one man, who is endowed with a vast genius, and stimulated by a strong sense of duty, or by a thirst for honour or wealth? What is wanting in societies, is generally wanting in journals. Each contributor furnishes his share, and seems only to labour on his own account. Not that in these miscellanies, we do not frequently see good pieces of criticism, and very valuable scientific essays; but they remain insulated, they are connected by no general plan, they are soon interred in the catacombs, and their monthly splendour adds but little more to the author's reputation, than it does to the advancement of science.

THE MEDICAL RECORDER.

A desire to extend a knowledge, among our professional brethren, of the merits of this highly valuable publication, has induced us to bring this subject again before our readers. Since its first appearance, the Med. Rec. supported a high reputation, but when it came under the superintendence of the present editor, Dr. Colhoun, a spirit was infused into its pages, which has given it a decided superiority over the multitude of those tame

periodical works on medicine, which are continually teeming from the press, and which are rather indebted to the respectable character every thing acquires by age, than to the intrinsic value of their borrowed and re-borrowed articles. It has too long been the practice, among journalists in the United States, to make up a quarterly pamphlet out of half a dozen others:—this is the most direct method of ruining a periodical publication, of which fact, our own observation, from several years' careful attention to such undertakings, has completely convinced us. There is learning enough, and experience enough, among American Physicians, to afford better specimens of medical literature in this country, than we have been generally treated with for many years past; but there is a sad want of industry, without which, we shall justly feel the reproaches of European writers. Dr. Colhoun has wisely broken over the old laws of *due deference* to other people's opinion, and given such brilliant examples of originality, that we can strongly recommend the Medical Recorder to the notice of the profession, as one of the best public journals of medicine in the Union. It is published at Philadelphia, by Mr. James Webster; but we shall be happy to contribute to its circulation, by furnishing it to the order of any gentlemen in this vicinity, who will leave a line at this office, particularly specifying their names and places of residence.

MODERN SURGERY.

Had we room to give a comparative view of the state of surgery in the sixteenth century, and at the present day, our readers would be highly flattered by the vast advantages we possess over our forefathers, in every branch of chirurgical science. There are now living, in France, many distinguished operators; and England, in point of surgical treatment, was never so far advanced, or more unrivalled, than at present. M. Dupuytren, who is now in the prime of life, and the most extensive practice—Boyer, Desault, Dubois, Lisfranc, and Roux, have given a high character to the French Hospital Surgery: and in London, the Hunters, the Bells, Mr. Abernethy, and Sir Astley Cooper, have acquired a reputation no less extensive than that of their brethren across the channel. Several works on the various branches of surgery, have been published by each of these gentlemen, and we are happy to find that these results of their labor and experience, are extensively circulated, not only in Europe, but in this country.

A young American surgeon seldom crosses the Atlantic, but to visit all the countries which lie beyond it, where professional knowledge may be acquired; and the result is, that in our own surgery, are combined the advantages of that of the different European schools; and the particular modes of any one of them, are seldom exclusively adopted.

In addition to this, the talents and ingenuity of American surgeons, have suggested many improvements which are unknown but among ourselves. Although, therefore, we have not the narrow streets—clumsy vehicles—immensely crowded population—excessive mendicity—great generality of syphilitic or scrofulous taint—the long and bloody wars—and the nice discrimination, which have united to make the French the most accomplished surgeons in the world, yet we have all the advantages of their experience; we have profited by their perfection, without suffering the miseries which have led to it—we have been placed in the innermost of the temple, without treading its vestibule.

Among the hospitals in this country, that of Pennsylvania is the oldest and most extensive. It has gained

great celebrity by the enterprise of the present distinguished Dr. Physic, and the late lamented Drs. Dorsey and Wistar,—and its records will compare well, in point of the success of its practice, with those of any similar institution in the transatlantic world. The Massachusetts General Hospital is yet in its infancy. It is, however, receiving frequent additions to its funds, is situated in the midst of a populous city, and its surgical department is under the direction of Dr. Warren, who as a surgeon, is as highly and as deservedly distinguished, as any in our country. He operates slowly—but neatly, carefully, perseveringly, with great deliberation and uncommon success. During the last two years and nine months, one hundred and twenty surgical operations have been performed there,—and more than *three hundred thousand dollars* have been received as private donations.

In the country towns, the surgical practice is very similar to that in our cities, and if the great operations, or even dislocations and fractures, are managed with less success, it is to be attributed rather to a want of proper apparatus, than to any deficiency of knowledge on the part of the operator.

ERUPTIONS ON THE FACE.

There are so many persons disfigured by different species of blotches on the face, and so many females injured by attempting to eradicate such innovations upon facial beauty, that we hope the following article will not only be acceptable, but give some useful information to general readers, in relation to cutaneous affections peculiar to the face.

Many young people, between the age of 12 and 20, have the forehead and chin covered with a great number of pustules, of different sizes, and different shades of colour, but mostly of a livid red. We have remarked, that if the subject has red or light-coloured hair, and if a male, the beard is thin and slow in its growth, and the face is more thickly studded with *gutta rosacea*, than among those who have a more luxurious growth of mustachios. If persons of the latter description are temperate in their habits, shave often, and make frequent application of soft lather to the face, they will find a complete cure may sometimes be effected in a few months. There is an inflammatory diathesis of the emuntories in the neighbourhood of the nasal cavities, owing to the acrimonious nature of the secretions, which thus creates pustules, by obstructing a porous surface; and the inflammation extends in the cutaneous tissue, forming areolæ of a peculiarly disagreeable appearance. All the usual cosmetics, as well as preparations of lead which have been designed as such, are highly deleterious, and often produce a chronic inflammation and scirrhus hardness of the pimples, which ever after appear like small kernels under the skin, which it is nearly impossible to eradicate, without resorting to harsh means.

We have rarely observed the same degree of virulence in the facial eruptions of females, as in those of males, although there are instances, from some constitutional irregularities, where the face is extremely disfigured. The forehead is most generally the seat of the complaint, and oftener yields to habitual friction, with a coarse napkin, even if it produces considerable bleeding, than from the use of external medicinal remedies.

When we speak of those eruptions peculiar to hard drinkers, we are at a loss to find a class of medicines adapted to the purpose of suppressing the advertisement of those faults, which nature labours so constantly to publish to the world. Long continued intemper-

ance produces a chronic inflammation of the mucous membrane of the mouth and nose, which bears such a relation to the external tunics of the face, and so close a sympathy with it, that whatever constitutionally deranges the one, necessarily effects corresponding changes in the other. There is scarcely a hope of bleaching the carbuncled features of a tippler, much less those of a determined drunkard, since such a disorganization of parts in a living system, is almost beyond the influence of the healing art, and depends for its remedy, rather on a spontaneous effort of the *vis medicatrix naturæ*, than on any active compounds of the *materia medica*. Besides this, we hold the class of beings here alluded to, in such utter contempt, that we should hardly feel a willingness to communicate a remedy for their purple physiognies, (were we in possession of a panacea,) unless positively assured of a speedy determination to abstain from one of the most shameful of the vices which disgrace civilized society.

The existence of cutaneous eruptions on the face of females, usually presupposes a bad set of teeth, and not uncommonly a stomach superabounding with acid;—hence, may they be traced to the close consent of the mucous membrane, and the external capillary vessels. Were we to admit the theory of sphincters in these minute tubes, as recently advanced by the ingenious Dr. John P. Batchelder, (who is shortly to publish a system of physiology, in which this doctrine is to be fully discussed,) it would be the easiest thing imaginable to account for so many phenomena in cuticular diseases.

Mineral alkalies, in moderate doses, at this season of the year, when the increased temperature of the body, from physical causes, determines a great portion of perspirable matter to the surface of the body, are particularly serviceable, and although they may not immediately remove the eruption from the face, they remotely conduce to a perfect remedy of the first cause of the complaint. Frequent ablutions with salt water, in conjunction with a vegetable diet, are among the most efficient remedies, and on the whole, we know of no prophylactic, better calculated to defend the face against pustular eruptions. Observation has led us to believe, that these unwelcome attendants are less common near the ocean, where the atmosphere is charged with marine salts, than in the interior of the country.

Cider and beer are so detrimental, that symptoms will, in some instances, become greatly and immediately aggravated by the use of them; while, on the contrary, fruits, which have generally been considered injurious, from the circumstance of their abounding with malic acid, are by no means improper, but rather have a salutary tendency, although the effects of fermented and fresh expressed juices, from the same fruits, are, as we have remarked, widely different. Distilled liquors, like strong fermented drinks, hold an irresistible control over the circulating fluids, and where a habit has been established of taking regular potations at frequent intervals, there is an undue determination of blood to the face, which gives a varicose character to the small veins of the skin, attended with a chronic inflammation of their inner coats, and which, taken in connection with the effects of an unsteady climate, and the natural changes of wind and weather, give to the face of the wine-bibber a scarlet pigment, forever beyond the power of the physician to remove. Although therefore a rufescent and *mountainous* physiognomy is not always caused by too liberal a use of strong drink, yet its *worst* forms are doubtless the result of such habits; and it becomes our young beaux and belles to beware of contracting a disease which is often incurable.

MEDICAL LITERATURE IN NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

Among our United States, there is no one where more attention has been given to medical science, than in N. Hampshire;—but this fact has often been a subject of remark, that it seems to be wholly confined to themselves,—and we cannot recollect that the physicians of that part of the country, have ever given the world many results of their experience. With the exception of a few reports of surgical operations, and those chiefly by distinguished gentlemen who have from time to time been attached to the medical department of Dartmouth College, there is scarcely a record of what they have been doing since the first settlement of the country. Perhaps the practitioners of N. Hampshire are generally better prepared for the successful discharge of professional duties, than those in any other part of N. England,—and this we feel warranted in saying, by personal acquaintance with the state of their medical polity; still, however, there is a want of some medium for transmitting their observations, and above all, an ambition to benefit their *neighboring* brethren, by the same means that they derive advantages from others.

Why have they not got up some medical journal in that State? Such a work could be well supplied, and would never die for want of patronage, if the talents which we know to exist there, should be infused into its pages. The surgical reports, alone, of Dr. Mussey of Hanover, and Dr. Twitchell of Keene, for the last four years, if properly drawn up, would give a high character to any periodical work. With so many local and constitutional advantages in their favour, if the same apathy, in relation to giving the details of their experience, continues to hold their communicative faculties in duress, they must expect to be reproached for inattention, and a want of interest in building up the medical character of their country.

REVIEW.

Address, delivered in Castleton, Dec. 2, 1823, at the Commencement of the Vermont Academy of Medicine, connected with Middlebury College. By JOSHUA BATES, D. D. Pres't. of the College.

The author commences his address by saying that

"We may congratulate our country, in view of the increasing attention paid to medical science, and of the consequent improvement in the practice of the healing art—of the rising respectability of a profession, so extensive in its influence, and so intimately connected with human happiness, as that of physic. We may congratulate the guardians and patrons of this institution, on the success which has attended their efforts to place it on a respectable and permanent foundation, and render it subservient to the cause of humanity. We may congratulate the professors, that their arduous duties have not been discharged in vain, nor their labours performed without the best of rewards, the satisfaction of public usefulness. We may congratulate the young gentlemen, who have enjoyed the distinguished privileges, here furnished, for improvement in medical science. Especially may we congratulate those, who have completed the prescribed course of preparatory studies, that they are about to enter on the public and responsible duties of their profession, with the best evidence of their qualifications, the most honourable testimonials of character, and the fairest prospects of respectability and usefulness in life."

And to this congratulatory exordium we may add, that we congratulate ourselves on finding this address to contain just and enlightened views of the subject.—The author's ideas of the medical profession, we consider such as ought to be inculcated by all who have regard for the lives and health of their fellow-beings. At a time like the present, when "tolerated quackery" prevails to such an extent, we are glad to meet with sentiments expressive of sound philosophy, and founded on the basis of nature and reason. The author observes that

"Some have boasted of medical skill, without knowledge, or of knowledge obtained without study and the labour of research; they have pretended to the discovery of a more direct avenue to the temple of *Æsculapius*, than that which encircles the extended field of science; but they have never found access to his sacred altars; their worship has been hypocrisy—their offering "strange fire;" or, to speak without a figure, no safe specific, no sovereign panacea has yet been discovered; nor any man *born* a physician."

We do not believe that the proverb, "*poeta nascitur, non fit*," will apply to the physician. We have no idea that a man can be "born a physician," or become an useful practitioner without much labor and study. Yet such is the perversity of mankind, that many will prefer an ignorant pretender, who commences practising when "but half made up," to a man who has gone through with a regular course of study, and received the benefit of instruction from the most eminent men of the profession. No sooner does a straggling hunter from the aborigines, make his appearance with the *attractive* title of "Indian Doctor," (we believe that is the improved method of orthography adopted by one of the copper-coloured race, who has lately flourished in this city,) than he "draws all men after him." Thousands flock to him, and come back telling *wonderful* stories of the *wonderful* cures performed by the *wonderful* man. And indeed cures are performed, as far as the force of imagination extends,—which, it is well known, often has great influence on many bodily disorders; so that we may truly say to such patients, "by faith ye are saved;" for it is most assuredly "faith without works;" and, *in faith!* they may consider themselves fortunate, if the result does not prove that "faith without works is *dead*!"

The address of President Bates will be read with interest and profit; and we take pleasure in recommending it as worthy the perusal of all classes.

Subjoined to the address, is an appendix, containing an account of the "Vermont Academy of Medicine, by one fully acquainted with its origin and progress," from which account it appears, that its advancement has been very rapid; but it would seem that feuds and animosities are likely to break out among those interested in the institution. Such petty quarrels among professors of a literary institution, reflect no great honour upon the parties concerned. They indicate narrow and contracted minds, which ought to be governed by nobler views and higher objects. The writer says that some of the professors "*loved its nourishment more than its growth or welfare*;" meaning, we presume, that they were influenced more by the "*auri sacra fames*," than by a desire to promote the true interests and objects of the institution. The writer complains that an application to the Legislature for pecuniary assistance, proved unsuccessful. If such men are at the head of the institution, as they are represented to be,

no wonder that their petition was rejected. It was a wise act of the Legislature, to refuse to grant money, if it was to be placed in the hands of men governed rather by sordid motives of avarice, and a love of a little brief authority, than by a wish to render the institution useful. We know nothing of the merits of the controversy, farther than what we learn from the appendix. But if such are the true statements of the case, there is a radical defect, which must be remedied before the academy can attain to any considerable degree of eminence or usefulness, or which must, otherwise, ultimately break down and destroy it. But if it is managed with judgment and discretion, and according to the original intent of its liberal founders, we have no doubt but it will become highly useful, and well deserving of both public and private patronage.

REPORTS.

BRONCHOTOMY.

When the opening into the trachea or wind-pipe is stopped up by accident or disease, so that air cannot pass into the lungs, the only means of preventing immediate suffocation, is to make an incision, which opening will carry on respiration as well as the natural one, and support life until the obstruction be removed. It is an operation which requires a quick and dexterous hand, and there is one fatal danger attending it, when performed by an unskilful operator—viz. carrying the first incision down too far, and thus wounding the large vein which takes the blood into the vena cava; this has occurred sometimes, but with whom there must have been a sad ignorance of the anatomy of those parts. A case happened at Dublin, sometime ago, where the operation was performed successfully by Dr. Philip Crampton, the present Surgeon General, who, as an operator, is no way inferior to Richierand, Dupuytren, or Sir Astley Cooper—possessing the profound judgment and knowledge of the two former, with the decision and elegance of the latter.

The case alluded to is as follows:—A waiter at Morrison's hotel, Dawson-street, with the praise-worthy intention, perhaps, of not expending that valuable time upon his dinner, which might be more lucratively bestowed upon his master's guests, and feeling at the same time the natural calls of his gastric organs, swallowed most voraciously, in the passage from the dining-room to the kitchen, an unlucky wedge of beef-steak, wholly unmasticated; and the reason why he neglected this necessary process of digestion, as we have since learned, was, lest the movement of his jaws might betray his selfishness.

The poor fellow, feeling that he could not breathe, ran into the kitchen, where in a few seconds he fell, surrounded by the other servants, who thought it was 'a fit.' A few moments terminated his convulsive struggles, and he lay apparently dead. Dr. Crampton having been sent for, arrived at this moment. On looking into the man's mouth, he ascertained the cause of the suffocation, instantly opened the trachea at its lower end, and cut out a small piece of the cartilage;—but nervous power was too far gone to act upon respiration.

The Doctor was determined not to give up without trying the artificial movement of the lungs, in the hope of exciting a natural one. He therefore introduced a quill in the wound, and blowing strongly through it, inflated the lungs

by force, which inflation he expelled gently, by pressing on the breast and ribs; this he repeated, so as to carry on an artificial breathing. The operation was crowned with complete success; for about the seventh or eighth inflation, the patient's pulse returned, and a slight sob gave notice that the muscles began to act;—a moment or two brought the man into full life. Dr. Crampton now removed the piece of beef from the top of the wind-pipe, where it was closely jambed, by passing a long quill upwards, through the aperture made below, and so pushing it against the beef, relieved the throat immediately, for the obstructing matter was ejected. The patient was conveyed to Meath Hospital, where the attention of the Doctor soon restored him completely; the wound healed in a few days, and the waiter once more resumed his professional duties. He has ever since been as strong an advocate as Mr. Abernethy for thorough mastication, and never fails to recommend it to his master's customers, whenever he is called upon to relate the accident which had so nearly cost him his life.

INTELLIGENCE.

RHODE-ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY.—The Fellows of this Society held their annual meeting on Wednesday last. The following gentlemen were chosen officers for the year ensuing:—

Levi Wheaton, M. D. President—vice Caleb Fiske, M. D. resigned; David King, M. D. 1st, and Solomon Drown, M. D. 2d Vice Presidents; Pardon Brownell, M. D. Recording Secretary; William Turner, M. D. Corresponding Secretary; Thomas M. Barrows, M. D. Treasurer; Dr. H. G. Bowen, Librarian and Cabinet Keeper; Dr. Edmund T. Waring, Dr. William G. Shaw, Dr. Samuel West, Charles Cotton, M. D., Censors for the Southern District; Dr. Samuel Hudson, John Mackie, M. D., Joseph Mauran, M. D., Dr. C. A. Carpenter, Censors for the Northern District.

Dr. Theophilus C. Dunn, of Newport, Dr. Thomas O. H. Carpenter, jun'r. of Coventry, and Dr. Hiram Cleveland, of Coventry, were chosen Fellows of the Society.—Drs. David King, Charles Cotton, William Turner, Pardon Brownell, and Joseph Mauran, were appointed a committee to examine, in behalf of the Society, a very neatly made retreating Spring Lancet, the invention of Mr. Thomas R. Williams, of Newport, and to give him, if they think proper, a certificate of its utility.—The Society received a letter from Dr. Caleb Fiske, tendering his resignation as a Fellow of the Society, in consequence of ill health, and accompanied by a donation of 72 volumes of valuable books—intimating, also, his intention to provide a fund, the annual income of which is intended to excite competition in the investigation of such medical subjects, as the Society may propose for discussion.—Drs. Hudson, Mackie and H. Bowen, were appointed a committee to wait on Dr. Fiske, and to thank him in behalf of the Society, for his very liberal donation.—It was voted unanimously, that Dr. Fiske be hereafter considered an honorary member of the Society.—Dr. Samuel West read an interesting discourse on the use of pressure in chronic diseases.—Dr. Levi Wheaton was appointed 1st Orator, and Dr. Solomon Drown, 2d Orator, for the next anniversary.

The Board of Examination for examining Surgeon's mates, who are candidates for promotion to the rank of Surgeon, is composed of Drs. Edward Cutbush, Samuel R. Marshall, W. P. C. Barton, Thomas Harris, and Bailey Washington. The subjects of investigation by this Board, are the moral character, and the scientific and professional attainments of the candidates. They are also directed to examine young gentlemen presenting themselves for the office of Surgeon's mate.

Dr. Majendie of Canterbury, Dr. Radcliffe, and Dr. Case, once passing a very jovial evening together,—“Here, brother,” cried Radcliffe, “here, brother Case, suppose we drink a health to all the fools that are your

patients.” “I thank you, my wise brother Radcliffe,” replied Case, “let me have all the fools, and you are heartily welcome to the rest of the practice.”

A patient of some distinction was teasing Dr. Wolcott with his symptoms, and though he had nothing scarcely to complain of, told him that he frequently had an itching, and begged to know what he should do. “Scratch yourself, Sir,” replied the Doctor;—this laconic advice lost him a wealthy and extensive family.

Dr. Reid, well known by his medical reports in the Monthly Magazine, was requested by a lady of literary eminence, to call at her house. “Be sure you recollect the address,” said she, as she quitted the room,—“No. 1, Chesterfield street.” “Madam,” said the Doctor, “I am too great an admirer of politeness, not to remember *Chesterfield*, and I fear too selfish ever to forget *number one*.”

To READERS. Our numbers on the “Disorders of literary men,” will be continued after next week. We regret the necessity of such interruptions, and hope they will seldom occur after this.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Ending July 3d, from the Health-Office Returns.

June 27.—Deborah Cassity, 38; Patrick Burke, 35; George Smith, jr. 3; ——— Stodder; ——— Green. 28.—Cynthia Claflen, 67; John T. Crosby, 50. 29.—Charles Seco, 24; John W. Robinson, 47; Thomas Ward, 29. July 1.—Ruth Phelps, 47; Elizabeth Turner, 44; Hannah Vose, 32; Thomas Stevenson, 47. 2. Francis Blacker, 50; Hon. Abraham Lincoln, of Worcester. 3.—Sally Clayton; Mary Burditt.

Inflammation of Bowels, 1—*Hepatic Entero Gastritis*, 1—*Stillborn*, 2—*Consumption*, 5—*Dropsy*, 1—*Debility*, 1—*Croup*, 1—*Rheumatism*, 1—*Apoplexy*, 1—*Insanity*, 1—*Carbuncle*, 1.

Died, in Norridgewock, Me. Dr. John Harlow, æt. 54.

Medical School in Boston.

THE Medical Lectures in Boston, will commence on the third WEDNESDAY in November.

Anatomy and Surgery, by Dr. WARREN. Chemistry, by Dr. GORHAM. Midwifery, and Medical Jurisprudence, by Dr. CHANNING. Materia Medica, by Dr. BIGELOW. Theory and Practice of Physic, by Dr. JACKSON.

The Massachusetts General Hospital, one of the most active and flourishing institutions in the United States, has received within a few years more than *three hundred thousand dollars* in private donations, in addition to its previous very liberal endowment from the State legislature. The number of surgical operations of magnitude performed in this hospital within the last two years and nine months, amounts to *one hundred and twenty*. Gentlemen attending the Medical Lectures, are admitted *gratuitously* to the surgical operations and clinical practice of this institution. Board can be obtained at from 2 dols. to 3 dols. per week.—A class of students exceeding one hundred, from different parts of the United States, attended the last course.

A pamphlet, containing a particular account of the Boston Medical School, and Hospital, is published for gratuitous distribution, and will be forwarded to any person, on his addressing a letter, post paid, to Mr. LEONARD HOLMES, of the Post Office, Boston.

July 6.

Miner and Tully on Fevers.

FOR sale, at COTTON'S Bookstore, No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-street, ESSAYS ON FEVERS AND OTHER MEDICAL SUBJECTS: by THOMAS MINER, M. D. and WILLIAM TULLY, M. D.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER:

Published weekly, at two dollars a year. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

PRINTING, IN ALL ITS BRANCHES, NEATLY EXECUTED AT THIS OFFICE.

OBSERVATIONS.

EUROPEAN MEDICAL SOCIETIES, MED. JOURNALS, AND MED. CRITICISM.

Translated and abridged from the *Journal General de Medicine*, published at Paris, April, 1819, and Communicated for the *Boston Medical Intelligencer*, by THOMAS MINER, M. D. of Middletown, Conn.

NO. II.

Let us imagine a periodical work, of as elevated a character as the nature of such miscellanies will admit. What benefit might not medicine receive from such a publication? It should contain the riches of our art, and serve as an invariable guide to practitioners. If this were the case, there would be no longer heard so many just complaints of the uncertainty in which physicians remain, with respect to many ingenious doctrines. We should ascertain what have the seal of truth. We should know the true value of the works that are published; what we ought to think of certain judgments which are dictated by flattery, hatred, envy, or interest. On the other hand, an impartial severity and accuracy, would make imprudent authors soon feel, that merely to print a book, is a very different thing from composing a good work. We are thoroughly convinced, that within a few years, such a journal would take so decided a superiority, that anarchy would cease in the republic of medicine. Undoubtedly, this salutary reform would make much room in our libraries, whose shelves are now bending under their burdens. Compilers of elements, who select without art, and write without taste, would disappear. Prolix demonstrators of unquestionable truths—dissertators of narrow views, but of profuse reasonings—experimenters, who dexterously found a reputation upon one or two suspicious facts, without any certain results, but of which they know how to reap the benefit,—histories of diseases carefully observed in the closet—apocryphal or trifling observations of medical romancers, who, always armed with the microscope of imagination, elevate their visions into discoveries, their ideas into systems, who distort facts, and violate nature to establish a theory—those amplifiers, who dilute a single fact into twenty pages, who torture simple and clear truth till they render it obscure and complicated,—in fine all the great authors with small genius, who are so superficial in their writings, and so profound in their own conceit—all these would lose their influence, and soon cease to distract the medical world. A very desirable end would be obtained; we should probably have much less to read, and much more to learn.

Considering the actual state of things, we have a long course to run before our improvement is complete. A great difficulty arises from the co-operators of a journal. The most respectable names are often announced, and every one is expecting to be profited by their talents and labours,—a vain hope! Never, or very rarely, are the articles of periodical works prepared by writers of this description. It is generally second-rate authors who are actually employed,—

masons supply the place of architects. This is owing to our not sufficiently estimating the importance of medical criticism. Our statement, however, will be credited, when we see the manner in which a journal is compiled. The editorial department is curiously managed. The labours are ordinarily distributed without choice, without discrimination, without reflecting that in the extent of science, there are some physicians who cultivate one branch in preference to others. Each contributor performs his part at his leisure, according to his own views, with little attention to the spirit and aim of the journal.—Soon the editor's desk is encumbered with piles of works, whose authors are waiting with impatience for notices or reviews; and with memoirs, observations, extracts, reports, intelligence, &c. This mass must be finally disposed of. The articles are arranged, not according to the subjects of which they treat, but in proportion to their length or brevity, to assist in making up the number of sheets. They are printed, and the journal is published. It consequently happens, that good and interesting articles are confounded with idle digressions, unimportant facts, verbose memoirs, mutilated extracts, and abortive researches. The whole forms at last an indigested collection, which is rarely consulted by good authors, and never by actual physicians, for practical purposes. It is especially necessary to have the number completed within the month, or quarter. Some editors pride themselves upon this punctuality. It is a serious calamity to find the end of the month approaching, without a supply of matter. In this embarrassment, other cares cease, and almost any thing is admissible. Old manuscripts are re-examined, those which had been rejected are inserted, and the pamphlet is made up of pieces which are without interest, or of such as merit eternal oblivion. There are abundant proofs that this picture is not overcharged.

Justice forces us to declare, that the impatience of subscribers is a very great hindrance to the exact selection of materials, and consequently to the excellence of a journal. When the fatal period has arrived, the publication is rigorously demanded. A delay of a few days, serves to tax the editor with indolence or carelessness. One would think, from the clamour, that every number contained the history of some important discovery, and that a delay of a few days, was a treasonable crime against humanity; as if science advances with as quick and steady a pace as the journal, however lame the latter may be. Only compare the real improvements, the true progress of our art, these last fifteen years, with the formidable mass of writing during that period, and what is the proportion?—There exists no comparison between them. Let no one be impatient, because he does not receive the productions of authors, as soon as they have escaped the pen. It is important to have substantial articles. *Sat cito, si sat bene*. Not that it is impossible to fulfil both these conditions; this depends solely upon the choice of editors. Here is the difficulty, as we have already

remarked. But under the present arrangements, the heterogeneous mixture of matter, resembles the confusion of tongues. Good, bad, indifferent, all indiscriminately appear in the same journal. Editors, critics, and other contributors, are paid by the page or sheet. *Inde mali labe*. Indeed, it is inconceivable, how prejudicial to science, how enervating to talent, is this method of employing writers at a fixed price—how much sordid interest induces the spinning out of an article, so that the reader himself is frequently obliged to abridge it. This management is a great hindrance to the perfection of medical criticism.—However, it is not the only one. Other difficulties arise from the writers themselves. We will point out a few that exist among the real friends of science and truth.

INSANITY

AS CONNECTED WITH JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

(Continued from page 21.)

Finally, it is necessary to observe that insanity may be counterfeited by the criminal, in order to defeat the progress of justice;—and with this view may attempt to impose on the medical practitioner. During the course of my experience, I have witnessed only two attempts of such imposture, and in both instances, the deception was so clumsily executed, that it required but little knowledge of the disorder to detect it.—To sustain the character of a paroxysm of active insanity, would require a continuity of exertion beyond the power of a sane person;—they do not keep up the deception, when they suppose themselves alone and unwatched;—the assumed malady then disappears, and the imposture is re-commenced when they are in the society of others. They are likewise unable to prevent sleep. If they endeavour to imitate the passive form of this malady, which is an attempt of considerably greater difficulty, they are deficient in the presiding principle, the ruling delusion, the unfounded aversions, and causeless attachments, which characterize insanity—they are unable to mimic the solemn dignity of systematic madness, or recur to those associations which mark this disorder; and they still want the peculiarity of look, which so strongly impresses an experienced observer.

In counterfeited insanity, the pulse will be natural; in real insanity, it is generally more excited than in a healthy state. Rush, in his lecture on Medical Jurisprudence, at Philadelphia, 1811, observes that "the knowledge of this fact has once been applied with success in the administration of the criminal law of the United States. One of two men, who were condemned to die for treason, committed against the general government, in the western counties of Pennsylvania, in the year 1794, was said to have lost his reason after sentence of death had been pronounced upon him. A physician was consulted upon his case, who declared his madness to be feigned. General Washington, then President of the United States, directed a consultation of physicians upon his case. Dr. Shippin, Dr. Samuel P. Griffiths, and myself, were appointed for that

purpose. The man spoke coherently upon several subjects; and for a while the state of his mind appeared doubtful. I suggested the propriety of examining his pulse. It was more frequent, by twenty strokes in a minute, than in the healthy state of the body and mind. Dr. Shippen ascribed this to fear. I then requested that the pulse of his companion, in guilt and in fear, might be felt. It was perfectly natural in frequency and force. This discovery induced us to unite in a certificate, that the man, who was only supposed to be mad, was really so; in consequence of which, his execution, as well as that of his companion, were suspended for two months; in which time the popular clamour for their lives so far subsided, that they were both pardoned by the Executive of the United States. (To be continued.)

MEDICAL LITERATURE IN RHODE-ISLAND.

The facilities enjoyed by the physicians of Rhode-Island, for adopting the improvements of New-York and Massachusetts, have been so very great, that they have generally been close imitators of the most eminent practitioners of the south and north, without originating any thing of material importance among themselves.

Its local situation enables us to account for the fact, that the Medical School of Brown University has never had a very great reputation abroad,—for it is between the Massachusetts Medical College on the north, the N. York College of Physicians and Surgeons on the south, and the Berkshire Medical Institution on the west, and to these three neighbouring schools many of their pupils resort.

The course of public lectures in their Medical School is by no means inferior to any in their neighbourhood, in point of accuracy or splendor, but there is certainly a very great difficulty in making their jealous neighbours believe it. We had the pleasure of being very politely invited into Professor Parsons' lecture room, (while on a visit to Providence, the last winter,) and we must do him the justice to say, that his Italian models of anatomy are done in a superior style.

A stranger would at first suppose the Professor of Anatomy a *dull*, inelegant teacher, who dealt altogether in *dry realities*; but, on subsequent observation, he could not but admire his unceasing labour to benefit the class, by his anatomical knowledge, as well as practical experience. There is a kind of sprightliness required in a public teacher, and if he neglects, or physically wants it, his hearers will most certainly fall below zero, and all his efforts will fail of exciting any thing like a warm admiration of his talents or learning. We had not the satisfaction of listening to the other professors attached to the school, but from sources on which implicit confidence may be placed, we learn that their abilities as teachers are uncommonly great.

We scarcely recollect a medical publication which has ever emanated from Rhode-Island. The physicians there have neither a periodical journal, nor, in fact, *leisure* to publish, even if they possessed a medium of sending their thoughts into the world; but no where do we find a more able class of practitioners, or those who deserve to be held in higher estimation by the public at large.

Their State Medical Society is *beginning* to arouse from the apathy which has too long controlled the feelings of its members, and we may now fondly anticipate a change, which will at least make the medical talents of Rhode-Island known and useful, not only at home, but at a distance. Surgery, although well managed

in Providence, has never had any very distinguished or able masters in that vicinity. It is said, but with how much truth we are unable to determine, that the celebrated Dr. Miller, of Franklin, Mass. does a third part of the surgical business of Rhode-Island.—The ambition of medical men in Europe and in this country, is widely different:—with the former, every man who stitches up a wounded finger, blazes it forth in some paper, with a long list of remarks on similar cases; but with us, it seems to be an object to get the fee, without saying much about the method of obtaining it. There can be no doubt, that the faculty in the United States are too diffident or too careless in making medical reports. It is wholly by such means—by frequently giving the details of experience, that the rising generation of physicians can govern themselves, or posterity think favourably of their professional forefathers.

CHIRURGICAL INSTRUMENTS.

New methods of operating on the human body, have almost invariably been followed by new inventions and improvements in the instruments by which surgical relief is afforded. On looking over several old amputating knives, keys and gorgets, a few days since, it occurred to us, how exceedingly interesting would be a public collection of those antiquated relics of a former class of operators. There is scarcely a professional gentleman, in the country, who does not possess some curious remains of this kind, from the mouldy drawers of the early practitioners; and in our cities, (particularly in this,) articles of this description might soon and easily be collected into a cabinet, sufficiently large to fill a room of ordinary dimensions. If the State Medical Society would take the trouble of requesting its members to contribute the useless *hooks* and *pincers* which have been transmitted to them from their ancestors, and appropriate an apartment in the Medical College for their safe keeping, it would not only speedily be filled, but would be a useful study, and excite the curiosity and the interest of all professional visitors.

Whilst almost every other society is sedulously engaged in *observing* and *preserving* those models by which the great improvements in the arts have been effected, there has been an universal disregard of the object we have ventured to mention. What could excite the wonder of a modern scientific surgeon more, than a sight of that complicated apparatus with which Hippocrates confined a fractured arm? Yet many of those machines, hardly inferior to a Roman battering-ram, in point of weight and ugliness, are still in existence, hidden among the neglected articles in the omnium gatherums of some of the oldest inhabitants of our sea-board. The author of *Salmagundi*, tells us of one of his relations, who was a branch of the Cockloft family, that prided himself on making a library of old books instead of new ones, probably because the latter could be borrowed, while the former could only be had for money. We desire some of our medical friends to cultivate the same train of reasoning, and can assure them, in the sequel, they will do a real service to the profession, who, out of mere gratitude, will be happy to lend them their modern instruments.

Others must view this matter in the same light as ourselves, and if they also feel the same *moving spirit* about the business, they will *beg* every thing they may happen to find, that has ever been used for the purposes of manual surgery, and in this way, something may be done, towards embodying them in some convenient place, for the inspection of the curious. Objections might be urged against the trouble of collecting

such materials for a surgical museum, from the circumstance that most of them may be found accurately delineated in ancient books; but when all is said, we have only to remark, that *pictures* are not their *originals*; and we sincerely hope that some one, who has more leisure than ourselves, will bring the subject before our Medical Society, where it will unquestionably meet with that candid consideration, which it obviously merits.

JULY.

This is the second in that series of months which constitutes our summer and our most delightful season. The heat is more uniform, and the air more dry, than in June. Vegetation is generally at its height, fruits begin to be abundant, and all nature seems now in its most fascinating form. The tendency of hot weather is always to debilitate, but the relaxing effect of July heat, (which is often 95 deg. Far.) seems to be greatly counteracted by the agreeable excitement which is diffused over the system, by the verdure and beauty of those scenes which had been, but so recently, destitute of attraction; when accustomed to these pleasing emotions, they cease to exhilarate; and hence, by the month of August, we feel all the enfeebling powers of summer heat, without that enlivening influence which makes us almost insensible of them at present.

The fine air of the country, united to the gay aspect of nature, on whatever side we regard it, renders the heat of July still less uncomfortable to those whose occupation will allow them to indulge in frequent excursions. For ourselves—we have no particular hours of business,—our time of service is never out,—and we can judge of the influence of a drive in the country, only from the fine spirits, unabated vigor, and freedom from languor, which we have observed among those of our friends, who are fortunate enough to have moments for such enjoyments.

We cannot forbear speaking here, of the wonderful coolness and beauty of the climate of NAHANT. Every body who wishes to be refreshed and invigorated, should visit that delightful and salubrious spot. The air is never as hot as in Boston by 15 degrees, and its heat is always prevented from being uncomfortable, by the breezes from the ocean. Infants who have languished under summer complaints in this city and vicinity, have immediately begun to recover, on being carried to Nahant: and we have often remarked a wonderful change in these little patients, within an hour after their arrival. Indeed we could go on and write columns on the blessed virtues of the Nahant air, but the amount of them all would be, that every body who wishes to get well, or feel well in summer, must go down to Nahant.

REPORTS

ARTERITIS AND PHLEBITIS.

Dr. S. Sprengel relates the following curious and interesting case of inflammation of veins and arteries from a wound:—"A young man, lately embarked in the military service, was sent to the hospital for a wound in the right hand, which he said was accidentally produced by a hatchet, but which was very evidently the result of design. Be that as it may, the wound was properly dressed, and every thing went on well for the first two days; but in the evening of the second day, a violent symptomatic fever was kindled, which, though mitigated for a time by a

copious bleeding, came on again with more intensity than ever, accompanied by gastric symptoms. An emetic relieved the latter. The wound now suppurated kindly, and on the fifth day, there was every appearance of a speedy cure. His companions at this time persuaded him that he would be severely punished for the attempt at maiming himself, which, joined to the chagrin of being disappointed in his hopes of discharge from the military service, threw him into a low nervous fever, while erysipelatous inflammation began to spread over the back of the wounded hand, and from that up the arm, in the direction of the great vessels. The fever now assumed the typhoid form, although the wound itself preserved a healthy appearance, and never ceased to discharge good pus. An abscess formed on the wrist, and was opened, when a great quantity of sero-sanguineous pus was discharged. On the 18th of November, a great hemorrhage took place from the wound, without any apparent cause. This was soon stopped. The process of suppuration was now arrested, and the wound looked dry and shrivelled.—The patient died on the 20th of November, eighteen days from the infliction of the wound.

DISSECTION. "Nothing remarkable in any of the splanchnic cavities. Sinuses and abscesses were found along the arm. The sheath of the radial nerve was a little inflamed, the radial and ulnar arteries, from the wrist to the middle of the fore arm being filled with pus. The lining coat of these vessels was thickened, corroded, and covered with coagulable lymph. The brachial, axillary, and subclavian arteries were sound. The veins, on the lower part of the fore arm, presented the same phlogose appearances as the arteries. On the clavicle an abscess was found filled with ichorous pus, the bone being denuded of its periosteum, and carious. Yet there was no affection of the vessels in the vicinity of this abscess. No other morbid appearance was found on any part of the body."

VOLTAISM AND IODINE IN GOITRE.

By Dr. COSTER.

A young man was affected with a goitre, the size of which was, at least, equal to that of three pullets' eggs: it had been unsuccessfully treated, in the first instance by iodine in friction, afterwards internally by the same substance, and finally by leeches, followed by fresh frictions. Some one gave me the idea of combining the action of the voltaic pile with that of the iodine, and it is known that the positive of the pile exercises an attractive action on iodine. From these data, I conceived that by making use of friction with pure iodine on one side of the tumour, and applying the pole on the opposite side, the absorption would be more speedy, and the effects of the iodine on the tumour more sensible. In order, however, not to attribute to the iodine those effects which might be believed to be those of the electric action, I began by subjecting the patient, for eight successive days, sometimes to the stream of the pile, and at others to the action of the sparks; but it was all in vain. I then began with the experiment. The tumour of the thyroid gland was placed twice a day, for the space of ten or twelve minutes, under the influence of the positive pole of the pile, taking care to change sides each time of using it; so that in the morning I made use of friction on the right side,

and the action of the pile on the left; whilst in the evening I chose the opposite sides. At the end of four days, the size of the goitre had diminished about four lines. On the tenth day it was reduced to one third, and at the end of twenty days, there did not remain the least trace of it.

The quantity of iodine which I employed, was two grains to a scruple of lard. During the whole of this treatment, no unpleasant symptom occurred; the skin had, however, a violet tint, but this disappeared in four or five days. I regret not having been able to repeat the same experiment, as no isolated observation is sufficient to establish a fixed rule.

REVIEW.

An Account of the Malignant Fever, as it prevailed in the Co. of Oglethorpe and Town of Lexington, (Georgia,) in 1822. Prepared for the Med. Soc. of Augusta, by ALEX. JONES, M. D. Honorary Member of the Phil. Med. Soc. and Member of the Med. Soc. of Augusta, Geo. pp. 30.

Dr. Jones first speaks in plain unpolished language, of the state of the weather previous to the appearance of the fever which he describes. We have little faith in the effect of the weather in producing diseases, any further than the general influence of extreme heat and cold in rendering the system liable to peculiar affections, and therefore think it would have been sufficient for the Doctor's purpose, had he said, *the Fever commenced in June*. We have frequently heard our friends say, in a dull, disagreeable season, "this will make business for the Doctors," but have never found business any more pressing after an unpleasant month, than after the most delightful. Even in the book before us, we are told that

"No very remarkable changes occurred in the weather, either immediately preceding or during the prevalence of the fever."

In speaking of the CAUSES of the fever, the flats, to which the village of Lexington is exposed, are said to have given rise to an *effluvia*, which acted powerfully as a morbid agent; and this seems not at all improbable, since no case occurred, either in the practice of Dr. J. or any other physician, but among those who lived in the vicinity of some mill-pond, marsh, creek, or river. *Fruits*, and *bad water*, were no propagators of the disease, and we doubt if fruits are ever injurious, if eaten in their season, before the spirit is departed from them, and in moderate quantities.—Of the influence of *electricity*, our author is doubtful, but lays much to the charge of *local filth*.

We are a little surprised at not finding among the circumstances enumerated as predisposing the system to be affected by the exciting causes of this disease, those which we apprehend had more influence than any others,—we mean grief, despondency, and lowness of spirits, from whatever cause induced. King John says, and says wisely, too,

"To fear a fever, gives strength unto a fever."

We have taken an accurate view of all the epidemics which have prevailed in different parts of the world, for the last two hundred years, and have found that no one circumstance has contributed so much to the extent and fatality of them, as bodily debility, induced by affections of the mind;—they have uniformly proved most fatal in those individuals who were depressed by fear of infection, or by pecuniary, domestic, or some other severe calamities.

The SYMPTOMS were those which always accompany and indicate a low, bilious fever, or what the historian more technically calls "a typho-bilious fever."

In the TREATMENT of this fever, Dr. J. remarked two grand indications, viz:—

"To relieve the extreme bilious state of the system, and afterwards to preserve the strength of the patient, by suitable tonics."

Would it not be well if both these could be so far combined, that the measures adopted in fulfilling the one, should not increase the necessity, and render more difficult, the fulfilment of the other;—is it not better, in all cases, to use such remedies for the removal of offending causes from the system, and the breaking up of diseased action, as shall answer their purpose without inducing excessive debility,—such, in fact, as shall tend to relieve the system of its trouble, and at the same time so far increase its tone, as to render it the better able to resist the further operation of the exciting causes of disease to which it may be exposed? In speaking of blood-letting, the author justly remarks that

"Ever since Dr. Rush's splendid achievements in the treatment of the bilious remittent fever that occurred in Philadelphia in the year 1793, this potent remedial agent has been in most cases pertinaciously adhered to by the advocates of his doctrines, without, I am persuaded, a due regard to the changes that diseases, and particularly fevers, are undergoing from the influence of a variety of causes. The most of his disciples in the United States seem to have imbibed his enthusiasm, and rested their opinions of the utility of blood-letting and salivation indiscriminately in all fevers, on the observations of this great man alone; without adapting those remedies to the results of their own observations, or, as it were, without becoming observers at all for themselves. Even if Dr. Rush were alive at the present day, and should have another fever to combat in Philadelphia or elsewhere, whatever might have been his former enthusiasm or confidence in venesection and calomel, he would find some modification or change necessary in the employment of those remedies, if not in some instances compelled partially to relinquish them."

Now there is no fact in the animal economy better established, than that the nature of diseases is constantly changing, and as the only philosophical principle of treatment, is that which rests on the nature of the complaint, it is very clear that a remedy which was successful in the time of Dr. Rush, is not consequently the most judicious at the present day;—when diseases assumed an inflammatory type, venesection, and every other means of depletion were called in requisition,—but in our day, when the same diseases assume a character distinctly typhous, it is a blind prejudice, a dangerous and fatal dependence on *authority*, which induces the physician to adopt an antiphlogistic process, because it was recommended by the amiable, benevolent, learned, and immortal RUSH.—A true imitation of those great men who have distinguished themselves in former times, consists not in doing as they did, but as they would do now.

We are happy to see that Dr. J. has not been carried away by the current which sweeps the great multitude of us in its course; but that in view of the actual character of the fever with which he was called to contend, he applied the remedies which an unprejudiced observer, and a wise practitioner, would see were most required. To every general rule there are exceptions, and

in the most typhous times, there are some full plethoric men, who should be in a degree reduced, and it was in such men only Dr. J. resorted to venesection;—"I scarcely found it requisite," says he, "to use the lancet, except in one or two cases," &c.

Purging and emetics were useful in the first stages of the complaint, but the chief dependence was on *tonics*; and what a multitude of diseases will the powers of nature subdue, if those powers are only supported by proper remedies!—We have already occupied so much room with our remarks on this subject, that we will only lay before our readers the following extracts from the valuable work of Dr. J., in which will be found an illustration of our ideas respecting the most philosophical and judicious mode of treating all fevers which partake of a typhous character;—we cannot however help observing, *en passant*, that we consider the publication before us, among our most accurate and valuable histories of malignant fevers.

"In comparing the treatment of this disease with fevers of former years, it will be seen that depletion could not be carried near so far as formerly, and the main dependence was placed on the timely exhibition of tonic medicines. I received a letter from Dr. John Pope, after the fever had subsided, which gives a statement of a similar practice, in many respects with great success;—he informed me that he 'had avoided excessive purging, and used mostly laxatives.'—As stimulants and tonics, he 'frequently used the vol. alkali in a state of effervescence, bark in infusion or tinc. serpentaria, elixir-vitriol, and sometimes Fowler's solution, wild cherry-tree bark,' &c.

"I find that a malignant fever raged in Brunswick county, Va. and in some of the adjoining counties, from the year 1819 to 1822, which has been described by Dr. John Lucas, resembling, in many of its leading characteristics, the fever that prevailed in this county and state during the last summer and fall,—1st. In the great prostration of strength that generally occurred. 2d. The large doses of medicine that were required to produce their desired effects. 3d. The quantity of bile contained in the stomach. The prostration of strength considered with the extreme bilious state of the system, fairly represent a bilious and typhus fever combined, as was the case with the one under notice. He stated that in its treatment, 'he laid up his lancet entirely; he also used stimulants and tonics in enormous doses, both by the mouth and in enemata, with the happiest effects.'*

"One case in particular he relates, which I shall here insert.—'During this season,' says he, 'Tho. E. Abernathy, now of Giles county, Tennessee, took, in eight days, nine drachms of calomel, with a proportionate quantity of oil, salts, and jalap, without an emetic, cathartic or sialagogue effect. He recovered on the free use of bark, toddy and elixir vitriol, and I could never tell what became of the calomel.' 'I had to increase the quantity of bark to six and eight oz. in the twenty four hours, and to give from two to three pints of good wine, besides camphor, hartshorn, &c. to keep up my patients. These means generally succeeded.' Again he says, 'I have said nothing of blood-letting in the summer form of this fever. I have resorted to it in no instance myself, being deterred by the state of the pulse, and the predisposition to extreme prostration.' "

INTELLIGENCE.

The lectures in the Medical College of Ohio, will commence on Monday, the fifteenth of November next, and continue fifteen weeks. The course of instruction will be as follows, viz:—The Institutes and Practice of Medicine, by Jedediah Cobb, M. D. Chemistry and Pharmacy, by Elijah Slack, M. D. Materia Medica, and Medical Obstetrics, by John Moorhead, M. D. Anatomy and Surgery, by Jesse Smith, M. D.

Drs. Cobb and Moorhead, and Professor Slack, will lecture at least five times a week, and Dr. Smith six. The price of the three former professor's tickets will be 12 dolls. each, and of the latter, 15. The matriculation fee will be 5 dolls.

Candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine, will be required to have attended the lectures of three professors for two seasons, one in this institution; or have been four years respectable practitioners of medicine, in which case the attendants for one season only will be admitted. "The Commercial Hospital and Lunatic Asylum of Ohio," which is now finished, and the "Cincinnati College," will furnish the most convenient apartments for the accommodation of a medical class; and the number of patients in the former, good opportunities for clinical instruction. The local advantages of this place, with the Laboratory and Cabinet of the professors, will enable them to make their courses of instruction practical and demonstrative.

Books, instruments, medicines, &c. may be obtained in Cincinnati, on the most reasonable terms; and boarding from dol. 1,50, to dolls. 2,50 per week.

A State Medical Society has just been organized in Ohio, the particulars of which will be given next week.

At a meeting of the Governors of the N. York Hospital, held on the 1st ult. the following gentlemen were duly elected Physicians and Surgeons of that Institution for the ensuing year:—

Physicians.—David Hosack, M. D., John Watts, M. D., Thomas Cock, M. D., Samuel W. Moore, M. D.

Surgeons.—Valentine Mott, M. D., Alexander H. Stevens, M. D., John C. Cheeseman, M. D., J. Kearny Rodgers, M. D.—John Neilson, Physician to the Asylum.

The Committee of the *Marine Humane Society*, are taking active measures for promoting the important purposes for which it was formed. Six sets of the apparatus for restoring suspended animation, have been purchased, and will be placed in suitable situations about the docks. The committee have likewise ordered two of the newly invented pumps for drawing poisonous liquors from the stomach. They also continue to give rewards to those boatmen who are active in saving persons from drowning.

Baron-Bruth Cramer, a celebrated German, has found out a method of making the most confirmed tippler have the greatest loathing and repugnance to all sorts of spirits and strong liquor. Take one tea-spoonful of the tincture of columbo, one tea-spoonful of the tincture of cascarrilla, one tea-spoonful of the compound tincture of gentian, a wine glass full of the infusion of quassia, and twenty drops of elixir vitriol; mix, and take twice or thrice a day, and have a jug of cold water dashed over the head every morning coming out of bed, and the feet bathed in warm water every night. Continue this for six or eight weeks.—Dr. Rothe, of Swinemune, has succeeded with this remedy in curing many poor creatures, both men and women, who were killing themselves, by continual tippling and drunkenness.

We do not pretend to vouch for the uniform efficacy of this method of checking habits of intemperance; but if the views of the Baron Cramer are correct, his name ought to be associated with that of JENNER;—the benefits of his discovery can be scarcely less extensive.

Mr. Russell, a gentleman who holds a situation in the Ordnance Office, Dublin, finding himself indisposed, took from a small medicine chest, a dose, as he supposed, of Epsom Salts, which he dissolved and swallowed; surprised at experiencing a sudden feeling of pain and inflammation, he was induced to examine the paper from whence he had taken it, and, to his great alarm, found he had taken a large dose of saltpetre. A mes-

senger was despatched for surgeon Ferral, of Batchelor's-walk, who attended, and, by a prompt application of the apparatus for withdrawing poison from the stomach, the whole contents of the stomach were, in about a minute and a half, transferred into a basin.—The operation was unattended with pain or difficulty and so successful, that in little more than an hour, Mr Russell was pronounced out of danger, and his large and distracted family at once restored to tranquillity.

In the town of Northampton, which has a population of 3278, there have been but *five* deaths in the last six months. The number of deaths has not been so small in any successive six months, since the year 1789.

The destructive fire on Wednesday last, and the high wind which filled the air of this city with smoke and ashes, have made inflammatory affections of the eyes extremely common, and the lungs of consumptive patients exceedingly irritable.

CORRESPONDENCE.—The communication from Dr. S. of West-Boylston, has been mislaid.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Ending July 10th, from the Health-Office Returns.

July 5.—Joseph Hemmenway; Susan Roberts, 17 mo.; Catharine Trumbull, 32; Lewis Young, 15; William Taylor, 44. 6.—Elizabeth Bovey, 32; Joseph Andrews. 7.—Harriet S. Goddard, 3 days; Dorcas Noyes, 64. 8.—Deborah Sewall, 106 yrs. 10.—Lydia Austin, 60; ——— Richardson; Joseph Herman, 2.

Lung-Fever, 1—*Dysentery*, 1—*Drowned*, 1—*Brain-Fever*, 1—*Consumption*, 1—*Stoppage in the Bowels*, 1—*Old age*, 1—*Typhus-Fever*, 1—*Stillborn*, 1—*Dropsy in the Head*, 1.

Died, recently, on a passage from St. Jago de Cuba to Havana, Dr. Aloux, a native of the department de la Haute Garonne, (France). At Philadelphia, Samuel F. Conover, M. D. æt. 58. At Westfield, Dr. Nathaniel Thayer, æt. 64.

Medical School in Boston.

THE Medical Lectures in Boston, will commence on the third WEDNESDAY in November.

Anatomy and Surgery, by Dr. WARREN. Chemistry, by Dr. GORHAM. Midwifery, and Medical Jurisprudence, by Dr. CHANNING. Materia Medica, by Dr. BIGELOW. Theory and Practice of Physic, by Dr. JACKSON.

The Massachusetts General Hospital, one of the most active and flourishing institutions in the United States, has received within a few years more than *three hundred thousand dollars* in private donations, in addition to its previous very liberal endowment from the State legislature. The number of surgical operations of magnitude performed in this hospital within the last two years and nine months, amounts to *one hundred and twenty*. Gentlemen attending the Medical Lectures, are admitted *gratuitously* to the surgical operations and clinical practice of this institution. Board can be obtained at from 2 dolls. to 3 dolls. per week.—A class of students exceeding one hundred, from different parts of the United States, attended the last course.

A pamphlet, containing a particular account of the Boston Medical School, and Hospital, is published for gratuitous distribution, and will be forwarded to any person, on his addressing a letter, post paid, to Mr. LEONARD HOLMES, of the Post Office, Boston.

July 6.

6w

Miner and Tully on Fevers.

FOR sale, at COTTON'S Bookstore, No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-street, ESSAYS ON FEVERS AND OTHER MEDICAL SUBJECTS: by THOMAS MINER, M. D. and WILLIAM TULLY, M. D.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER:

Published weekly, at two dollars a year. All communications must be post-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

PRINTING, IN ALL ITS BRANCHES, NEATLY EXECUTED AT THIS OFFICE.

* See No. 19, Amer. Medical Recorder, p. 417.

OBSERVATIONS.

EUROPEAN MEDICAL SOCIETIES, MED. JOURNALS, AND MED. CRITICISM.

Translated and abridged from the *Journal General de Medicine*, published at Paris, April, 1819, and *Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer*, by THOMAS MINER, M. D. of Middletown, Conn.

NO. III.

The first thing to be noticed is, that many editors are very young physicians. By this means, numbers first make themselves known in the medical world. It is not uncommon to see a young Aristarchus, who is scarcely tinged with the dust of the schools, constitute himself a censor of old practitioners. *Tili ab academia venis, fastum spiras, exinans scrinio, exindocto corpore.* It is often remarked, that young reviewers are, either too indulgent, or too severe: they scourge or they flatter. Too timid to be just, they sacrifice principles to personal considerations. Modest youth are cautious and prudent: they know that nothing is to be neglected when they make a beginning, and that in their progress, they will meet with formidable enemies. On the other hand, severity arises from their having published nothing themselves. They are ignorant of the difficulties of composing a tolerable work. Or perhaps, having read only the writings of the great masters, (which they were required to do, as text books,) they are prepared to condemn every thing that does not reach such high standards. Future experience will teach them, that the intrinsic merits of many productions, does not consist in the style. More than one author of high pretensions, has taken his hints from writers of less note, and has erected his palace upon the plan, and with the materials, which have been furnished by modest workmen. It does not, therefore, belong to young doctors, to exercise their pens, and vent their spleen, at the expense of the latter, though their theories may be a little superannuated, and their style simple and without ornament.

We are nevertheless far from concluding, that youth of itself is sufficient for an absolute seclusion from the critical department. This would be, to judge of the talents of the philosopher by the length of his beard. We could even mention some young critics of very appropriate talents. Besides, in them are always to be found, zeal, ardor, and a strong desire of distinction—inappreciable qualifications, when they are properly directed. But who will pretend to say, that they are common to all our censors, whether old or young? Multifarious occupations, extensive patronage, business of every description, hinder many men of age and experience, from judging with reflection; and yet, they dare to assume the critical chair. It is true, to adopt an expression of their own, that they trouble themselves only to give *hasty sketches*, which cost them but little attention.

From what has been said of medical censorship, when viewed in a proper point of light, we shall not be surprised to learn, that pretended critics can analyze a book, without having read

it. Yes, without having read it, or even having cut the leaves! Voltaire said, you must write short, if you mean to be read. Be it so; but then, we ought first to read, before we attempt to review. Common honesty demands it. Can a sentence be valid, when the parties have not been heard? However, an analysis must be made out, and the time is urgent. In this case, the ordinary course is, to look over the table of contents, to glance at the surface, to catch hastily a few ideas of the author, to copy a few sentences from the work, (we must quote some,) to criticise a little, to praise in a cold and formal manner with the customary qualifications, then to dispose of the quotations without connection, art, or end, and finally, according to custom, to add a summary or criticism, which in the language of booksellers is termed the *lashing*. Such is the expeditious way of making an analysis. More than one reviewer may here see his portrait. Notwithstanding this indifference, the poor author is often waiting with impatience for the examination of the fruit of his midnight labours, and is expecting a good article to add to the treasures of his reputation.

Some reviewers act upon a very different principle. The book which they name is precisely that, about which they care the least. If they afterwards mention it, it is by accident, or to keep up appearances. It merely serves as a text, from which they can write without measure or end, and publish their views, their systems, their speculations, their plans. From one consideration to another they often soar so high, as to lose sight of the book which they have named, the author and the reader.

This kind of review may have its use, when the critic substitutes new ideas and interesting sketches, instead of those of the work; but this advantage cannot be expected from those who write to make a parade of their style. A celebrated man of the eighteenth century said, that eloquence had invaded every thing, even anatomy. What was only an hyperbole in his age, is truth in our own. Common readers only skim the surface. *It is well written*, is the commonplace phrase, which serves as a passport for many pitiful productions. The number of those who can penetrate beyond the exterior, appreciate facts, experiments, observations, ideas, a regular plan, and proper arrangement of materials, is small. Many have still to learn, that style is the colouring of the picture, the clothing of the man, and not the man himself—the leaves, and not the fruit of the tree of science. If it gives life to *literary* subjects, it alone can afford but a limited duration to those which are *scientific*.—Pretensions to style are a greater proof of imagination, than of solid learning. Affectation of turns and phrases, a certain coquetry of expression, shows in an author the design of seducing, rather than of instructing, the reader. Upon any subject, the truth may unquestionably be embellished, and dulness is to be avoided. *Delectando pariterque monendo* is a precept, as admissible in the sciences as in the fine arts. But how difficult is it to attain this twofold end! For a few

elect, how many reprobate! We reckon among the latter, all those who prefer words to things; who esteem the futile talent of combining phrases and periods, as above every thing else—as above the subject itself. In their view, simplicity, neatness, clearness, and decency of style, a natural, masculine, and precise diction, are qualities which have nothing striking and forcible. With them, the most novel expressions, and an affectation of rhetoric which is disgusting to good taste and sound criticism, are the only recommendations. If we strip them of this beggarly luxury, we find a complete deficiency of ideas and things. By depriving them of this loquacious eloquence, which they apply to all subjects alike, we reduce them to silence. This too common perversion of literature, is much to be lamented.

Others run into the opposite extreme. A dull and dry style, and a heavy manner which is always dogmatic, in their opinion, are the point of perfection; and they make no scruple of mortally tiring the reader. The ostensible motive is, to make the truth shine of itself; the real motive, is a secret jealousy against such as have the art of being read. It is the complaint of the poor against the rich; and if wit appears to them to be a sacrilege in the sciences, we can easily believe, that their endeavours to avoid it, costs them no pains.

MORTALITY OF PHILADELPHIA.

The following extract is from a long and interesting essay, by Dr. EMERSON, on the subject of the uncommon degree of mortality in Philadelphia the last year, and which was published at length in the National Gazette.

"Those who examine the bills of mortality of this city and those of New-York, will be forcibly struck with the surprising difference presented under the head of *fevers*, the fatality of which, in conjunction with that of bowel complaints, small-pox and hooping-cough, will nearly make up the excess in our bill of mortality. The average number of deaths by fevers, estimated for the 3 years previous to 1820, is three hundred and thirty-five.

"We may therefore fairly ascribe most of the increase of mortality in Philadelphia for the last year, to the unusual, and we trust, transient prevalence of small-pox, but more particularly to an unhealthy condition of the atmosphere in its vicinity, which during the summer and autumnal months has proved a prolific source of fevers and bowel complaints."

"Next to fevers, consumption is the most mortal complaint on our list, but it appears to have been much less fatal in Philadelphia than in New-York. The same remark will likewise apply to the inflammatory affections of the chest, to croup, and tabes mesenterica.

"That there is no reason to believe any material difference exists as to the healthfulness of these two cities, under ordinary circumstances, fully appears from a table (subjoined by Dr. Emerson.) The superiority, in this respect, is indeed rather in favour of Philadelphia."

DISORDERS OF LITERARY MEN.—NO. VI.

2d. *Influence of certain circumstances usually neglected, upon the bodily vigor and mental powers of those who are devoted to study and habitual meditation.*

However much excessive and habitual exercise of the intellectual faculties, may seem to produce mental as well as bodily infirmities, our literary friends have yet something to learn, if they really attribute all their maladies to study alone. Feeling, as they do, an insatiable thirst for literary distinction, and an uncontrollable pride and pleasure in cultivating those talents which they are conscious of possessing, that may be a grateful voice which proclaims to them the undoubted fact, that there are circumstances in their mode of life, a proper attention to which will enable them to pursue the objects of their ambition, without incurring the evils to which we have alluded, circumstances which, though trivial, exert an unbounded influence on the health, and produce that destruction of the intellectual and physical powers, which is so often laid to the charge of application;—these therefore it will be our duty faithfully to disclose.

1st. **THE AIR.** Among the requisites for preserving life and health, the first which should attract the attention of the physician, is the atmospheric air. The purity of this elastic, invisible fluid, is indispensable to the act of respiration, and consequently to all the functions of animal life. Modern chemists have ascertained that it consists of 27 parts of oxygen, 73 of nitrogen, and (according to Fourcroy) 1 or 2 of carbonic acid gas. Its physical properties are well known, and we need scarcely suggest its great facility of rarefaction and condensation, and the readiness with which it mingles with the infinite number of vapors which exist near the surface of the globe it envelopes.

The air compresses us on all sides, penetrates into the minutest cells of the respiratory organs, and is found to exist in every part of the digestive apparatus; it is susceptible of change from the emanations which arise during combustion and fermentation, and from the respiration of different animals. This fluid contains a principle, which, after having been absorbed by the lungs, is carried to every part of the system, to give rise to animal heat; and thus is it both the natural stimulus and the supporter of life. When therefore it exists in a state of perfect purity, it stimulates the different organs in such a manner as that every function is exercised with freedom and the most perfect regularity; but when, on the other hand, it is adulterated by any foreign gas or mephitic vapor, or by a diminution of its natural quantity of oxygen, respiration and circulation, the functions of the brain, and the secretions of the whole economy, are not only performed with languor and debility, but are sometimes even suspended or destroyed. It is thus that this universally diffused and constantly active fluid, becomes the cause of numerous maladies, and often conveys into the system of the unsuspecting sufferer, some subtle poison, which undermines his constitution, ruins his health, and puts an early period to his usefulness and his life.

Air that has passed through the lungs, is not thereby rendered absolutely unfit for respiration, but it is deprived of a certain quantity of its oxygen, (or vital air) leaving a superabundance of azote and carbonic acid. Not only is the proportion of carbonic acid greater, but its absolute quantity is very much increased; it is generated in the lungs, and the air expired, contains a much greater quantity of it than the air inspired. After, therefore, having been often subjected to the action

of the lungs, and having imparted its oxygen to produce animal heat, the air is little more than a mixture of carbonic acid and azote, and totally incapable of imparting to the functions that freshness and vigor which are derived from its more important ingredient.—Pure air produces in man a greater degree of heat, than that which is of an elevated temperature; for, being more condensed, the same volume contains a greater quantity of oxygen gas; hence it is more proper to stimulate the various organs to action—to render our movements more free and sprightly, and the exercise of our intellectual faculties more vigorous and rapid.

If then, the air contains a definite proportion of oxygen, and during each inspiration, a certain quantity of this principle is imparted to the blood, through the medium of the lungs, it is evident that the air of any one room, however large, if it remains a long time shut up, and is not changed by any current, can furnish but a small proportion of the vital principle, since not only is its quantity diminished by every respiration, but its place supplied by a pulmonary exhalation composed of unrespirable gases. The consequence of this is, that the blood does not receive its natural degree of stimulus, and all the functions languish and are performed with difficulty and pain. When, therefore, a person has remained a long time in an apartment, the air of which has not been renewed—his accustomed strength and agility are lost, and a general uneasiness, stiffness, languor, and disinclination to move, are the certain consequences.

Other evils, no less serious than those already mentioned, result from the habit of breathing an atmosphere of too high a temperature or too much rarefied, or which has been frequently subjected to the action of the lungs:—these are a constant inclination to sleep—torpor—a sort of failing of the brain, which is followed by a dullness and indistinctiveness of the ideas, which amounts to not only a diminished activity, but a total destruction of the imagination and the memory, and which often extends its influence to other faculties of the mind. These effects are attributed, by those who are ignorant of their real causes, to the weight and extreme density of the air;—they say the air is heavy and oppressive. The fact is, it is much lighter, at these times, than at any other, and all the disagreeable sensations it produces, are owing to that rarefaction—to the small quantity of oxygen contained in a given volume.

Elastic and pure air emancipates the whole system from the state in which it had been thrown, and enables all the functions to pursue their march with ease and freedom. Vigor, force, and activity of body, take the place of uneasiness and insensibility,—the sensations are revived and unembarrassed—the ideas are more clear and abundant—and associations natural and rapid; the imagination is excited to its proper activity, and the memory exerts its power with strength and with effect. Every function, in fact, of the mind as well as the body, is excited to its natural and free exercise, and the principles of life and heat are universally diffused by the habitual respiration of a pure and unadulterated atmosphere.

These considerations show how absolutely necessary is purity of air, to the healthy action of the various functions of the body, and the clear and energetic exercise of the faculties of the understanding. If, then, for those who are concerned in the ordinary affairs of life, the habitual respiration of a fresh air, is required to support the operations of the intellect, how much more necessary is it for those whose path is in the fields

of philosophy and science, and whose hopes, whose usefulness, and sometimes whose lives, depend on the strength of their understanding,—on the clear and vigorous exercise of their intellectual faculties.

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY OF THE SKIN,
AS CONNECTED WITH COMPLEXION.

Many centuries have rolled away, since physiologists began to explain the phenomena of human complexion, and to account for the varieties which are thus exhibited in the great terrestrial family. Thus far, however, notwithstanding the learned length and unheard of profundity of their arguments, we honestly confess that no single idea, which either ancient or modern philosophers have advanced on the subject, has contributed to its elucidation, and we beg the indulgence of our readers, whilst we give a theory of our own, after stating, what no one will pretend to deny—that local situations, the influence of light, and the greater or lesser intensity of calorific rays, essentially modify the complexion.

Instead of joining with all anatomists who have ever written, in saying that the epidermis is a condensation of the corpus mucosum, and that the latter is composed of the minute terminations of extremely small vessels on the surface of the cutis vera, we take the liberty to declare, that the most untiring and careful observations in the dissecting-room, warrant us in the belief that this opinion is erroneous in toto. With a very few exceptions, practical teachers of anatomy hum over to their classes, year after year, the same old stories about *cutaneous absorption*, the *membranous nature of the rete mucosum*, &c., without taking the trouble to investigate or test the assertions of their predecessors, or aid the inquiries of the pathologist.

Every anatomist is well acquainted with the fact, that the theca, or sheath of a nerve, is of a peculiar character, of a marble whiteness, plentifully furnished with blood-vessels, and contains within it, the nervous matter on which sensibility depends. This substance is of a pulpy nature, apparently inorganized, of precisely the same colour as the cerebral mass, and possessing the same physical properties with the brain from which it emanates. Now we suppose the cutaneous nerves, as well as all others in the body, (for they all have a course towards the surface,) terminate with open mouths, and the reflection of their sheaths in every possible direction, over the cellular membrane, forms a delicate, firm web, which composes the cutis vera. Although these sheaths possess but little sensibility whilst in the body, their office being merely to contain the nervous pulp, yet, as soon as they emerge above the cellular tissue, we find they not only assume a new character, but are highly organized, and, in the form of a continuous membrane, are so acutely sensible, that the point of a needle cannot be inserted in any spot, without giving pain. The fibres which are conspicuous in the sheaths, are also easily recognized in the cutis vera, and the blood-vessels which accompanied them, become so curiously ramified and intermingled with these fibres, that some have supposed the skin entirely made up of arteries and veins.

This view of the origin of the true skin, is consonant with the general economy of the system:—if the nervous sheaths are not reflected in this manner, they must necessarily stop abruptly, as they emerge from the deep-seated parts of the body, which would be too mechanical, and totally unlike any thing in nature.—Thus we find the true skin is constituted of the investing membranes of the subcutaneous nerves, fully and

abundantly supplied with blood, but depending for sensibility rather on the nervous pulp, which is in contact with its surface, than on a distinct set of nerves appropriated for its use. Here we will observe, and by a detailed demonstration we hope yet to prove our observation correct, that the nerves, or rather their sheaths, terminate with exceedingly minute open mouths, and consequently there must be a gradual oozing from them of the very substance which distends the nervous cords—a substance which is precisely like that of the brain itself. As this escapes from the nervous emunctories, which are more or less numerous, according to the exposure and other necessities of the animal, it spreads out on the cutis vera, and thus constitutes the *corpus mucosum*, improperly called a *membrane*, and on which the colour or complexion of the body entirely depends.

In relation to the epidermis, (or scarf-skin,) the last and outer covering of the body, we fully agree with authors, that it is a condensation of the rete mucosum. More nerves terminate in the hands and feet, than any where else, and hence a greater quantity of matter is supplied to furnish the greater thickness of epidermis required to defend the parts—a circumstance which depends on the dangers and *hardships* to which the extremities of the limbs are exposed. Whilst the rete mucosum imparts life to the cutis vera, the contact of atmospheric air continually destroys its own, and hence the nervous pulp is continually flowing to support the sensibility of the one, and afford materials for that on which its own healthy action momentarily depends.

By this explanation, we can account for the phenomena attending the application of a blister—how new scarf-skin is generated, and how even the functions of the brain may be interrupted by an inflammatory state of the skin, when accompanied by a denudation of the epidermis. In this way we explain the fact that no part of the body can be touched, without exciting a sensation;—it is completely enveloped in this exquisitely sensible, nervous exudation. We have no reason to doubt the existence of lymphatics in the cerebrum, notwithstanding the many unsuccessful attempts to detect them;—and why have we not strong analogical evidence in favour of supposing that organ to have an excretive power through the agency of the nervous tubes? Certainly, such a conclusion, although it may carry the appearance of novelty, is not to be hastily pronounced a chimerical doctrine.

We come now to the consideration of COMPLEXION, and in order to substantiate the preceding arguments on the origin of the rete mucosum, shall endeavour to show that diseases of an inflammatory nature, or morbid affections of the nervous emunctories, have power to alter it. There are many interesting cases on record, and of many others we have been personal witnesses, of negroes, who have gradually become partially white, and of others who have had small white spots on different parts of the breast, back, arms, &c. rapidly spreading over the body, and all, too, without any perceptible indisposition. Now the rationale of this phenomenon is simply this;—the mouths of the emunctories, by some morbid excitement, become closed, and as soon as the exudation (for we cannot find a better phrase,) ceases, the old coat is changed into scarf-skin, of a horny texture, and semi-transparent, through which the cutis vera is seen, of a most beautiful whiteness. As soon as this change takes place, the true skin loses, by the loss of the nervous mucus, much of its irritable character, and hence the negro feels no disagreeable sensation, although he has actually a dis-

ease of a very curious nature, accompanied with paralysis of the cutis vera. Whenever a person can discover a medicine which will obliterate these mucous ducts, and prevent a future flow of the rete mucosum, coarse and curly hair will be no longer inconsistent with a fair face, and it will be as easy to bleach a negro of the blackest die, as to whiten the sheets in which he reposes. There seems already to be a medicine for almost every other purpose, and we cannot think that to which we have alluded, will long remain undiscovered, or at least *unannounced*.

Again let us return to the encephalon. Some author, but who we cannot now recollect, perceived a manifest difference in the colour of the centrum ovale of the negro, and the brain of an European—the former being of a more yellowish hue than the latter. This has generally been treated as an anatomical whim, worthy of nothing but pointed ridicule; but we begin to suspect that future observations will establish the truth of this discovery. We are much inclined to believe there are no two brains of the same shades of colour, and that the primitive or natural cast of the mucous pigment under the epidermis, corresponds with the general colour of the cerebral mass, but assuming new varieties, as it comes upon the surface, according to the external operations of light and heat. If this were not the case, the East-Indian and the Ethiopian would both grow whiter, if kept long enough at a distance from the influence of those powerful agents.—Why one person is originally tawny, and another yellow or black, we do not undertake to explain in this place, but believe it very materially depends on the peculiar tint of the cranial contents.

In the torrid zone, a series of years may effect important changes on the brain, such as may result from difference of diet, intensity of heat, &c.; and hence the traveller may turn brown; not so much however by the physical changes produced in the rete mucosum, as by those effected in the liver and other viscera, changing the hue of the cerebrum and other textures. Hence, when he returns to his native abode in a temperate clime, he is soon restored to his former complexion.—Here it may be asked why the African grows no whiter in America? nor darker by being returned to his native country? *Black* is an extreme colour, which, when once established, admits of no further qualification.—*Mulattoes*, in our climate, lose the cast of their complexion in the course of a few generations;—but there never has been an instance of a white family passing through all the variety of sable hues, till they were identified as negroes.

As soon as circumstances will permit, we shall resume the subject, in a more systematic form, and examine the operations of climate, and the effects of light, heat and regimen, on the complexion of man, in the different sections of the globe.

ANATOMICAL WAX-WORK.

We cannot, in justice to our profession or our friends, omit calling the attention of medical gentlemen who visit Boston, to the specimens it contains of this interesting art. There is no city in the union, where wax modelling, for anatomical purposes, is carried to such perfection as in this. H. Williams, Esq. long distinguished for his mechanical ingenuity, has recently completed a masterly wrought figure, which is so perfectly imitated from life, that it would deceive a very accurate anatomist, at the first view, for a real subject. His large models of the human ear, are so correctly executed, that the abstruse anatomy of that curious organ,

appears divested of that mystery of mechanism which all authors have attached to it.—He is also engaged in making models of the brain, in plaster, not only of large dimensions, but with great accuracy. The circumference, from the cinciput to the occiput, is 4 feet, 4 inches; the depth, from the vertex to the pons varolii, 2 ft. and the diameter, from ear to ear, across the base, 2 ft. 4 inches. The whole is hung on a pinion, in a frame, which admits of its being turned in any direction for demonstration, and in a medical school, where the students are at a distance from the chair, it must be invaluable. For *forty dollars*, we have availed ourselves of one of these models, and notice them more particularly, both in justice to the ingenious artizan, and for the benefit of teachers of anatomy.

Mr. Doyle, of the Columbian museum, no less admired for the originality of his genius, and taste for the fine arts, had the politeness to show us a model of the eye, a few days since, on an enlarged scale, so constructed that the prismatic rays are represented by different coloured silk threads, which are sent from an object, and pass through the pupil, where they are connected to a miniature of the same object, inverted. The globe is of glass, four inches in diameter, on the anterior part of which are the eyelids, and the different hues of the iris and sclerotica. The whole is connected with a delicate frame, in such a manner that the object can be moved backward and forward, to make the rays of light cross at different distances in the vitreous humour, at once showing the focal point in the eye of the near-sighted and presbyope. The expense is so trifling, that every person of philosophical taste, would be amply compensated, by studying the principles of optics by one of these artificial eyes. We conceive that every popular seminary for youth, ought to be furnished with one of them, from the consideration that the youngest capacity could be taught the operations of light on the eye, and comprehend the philosophy of vision, more completely, in half an hour's time with this machine, than by whole weeks of laborious study.

REPORTS

MALFORMATION OF THE INTESTINES.

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer, By SAMUEL A. SHURTLEFF, M. D. of Boston.

A child recently died in this city, just three days from the time of its birth. On examination, the following appearances presented. The liver was much smaller than usual; the gall-bladder distended with bile; the stomach and its pyloric orifice of the usual size; but, below the entrance of the ducts, there was a very gradual enlargement through the whole extent of the duodenum, and a greater part, if not the whole of the jejunum,—their mean diameter being not inferior to that of the same membranous viscera in the adult. The lowest part of this enlarged portion, was three inches in diameter, and terminated very abruptly in a blind pouch. The ilium, the continuation of this part, was only $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter, and exhibited the appearance of a firm, ligamentous cord, and in it were several intermediate spaces, from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch in length, that did not exceed one line in thickness.

All the large intestines were of one uniform size, being about $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch in diameter. The appendix vermiformis was quite as large as it is usually found, and contained feculent matter.—The enlarged part of the small intestines and the stomach, were distended with a thin, yellowish

liquid, nearly of the colour and consistence of bile. A similar matter was frequently vomited during life.

That nothing may be omitted which might seem to have a bearing on this interesting case, it may be well to state that the mother, during the whole period of gestation, laboured under an uncommon degree of nervous excitability, and about three months before the birth of her child, suffered severely from a fright.

Query. Whether from a defect in the performance of the functions of the liver and failure of the secretions, &c. during the illness of the mother, the parts were allowed to contract by their contractility of texture, or was there a want of developement coeval with the early months of the embryo? The circumstances of the case are in favour of the latter opinion.

POISONING BY ARSENIC.

A physician informs us of the following case, which has recently happened in his practice, at the northern part of this city. The house, where the patient resides, had been so much infested with rats, that the occupant, after suffering awhile their alarming depredations, mixed a quantity of arsenic with Indian meal, and, besides in other haunts of these mischievous animals, placed a quantity at the mouth of an ash-hole, in the kitchen. Unfortunately, one of his young children got to it, and swallowed a considerable portion. As soon as possible, large doses of sweet oil were administered, and, immediately after, an emetic, by which nearly all the meal was thrown off the stomach. The child continued to be affected with vomiting and drowsiness, accompanied with severe spasms, and laborious breathing, until alkalies were resorted to, in conjunction with oil. After close and unremitting application of these remedies, for several days, the patient became convalescent, and, we are happy to say, is now perfectly recovered.

INTELLIGENCE.

VERMONT ACADEMY OF MEDICINE. The lectures will commence at Castleton, on the first Thursday of September next, and continue fourteen weeks, under the following professors. William Tully, M. D. Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, and Medical Jurisprudence. Theodore Woodward, M. D. Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery and Obstetrics. William Anderson, M. D. Professor of Anatomy and Physiology. Amos Eaton, Esq. Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, and Lecturer on Mineralogy and Zoology. Jonathan A. Allen, M. D. Professor of Botany, Materia Medica, and Pharmacy.

Fees for all the courses, 40 dollars. Matriculation and library fee, 3 dls. Graduation fee, 12 dls.—Degrees conferred by the combined authorities of Middlebury College, and Vermont Academy of Medicine, in Castleton, at the close of the lecture term.

BRUTAL CARELESSNESS.—On Thursday afternoon, a child of Mr. Jacob Todd, was, while sitting on the side-walk in Purchase-street, run against by a truck, and its leg broken; the truckman immediately drove off. A reward of ten dollars will be paid to any person who will give sufficient information, to prosecute to conviction this inhuman wretch.

CONTAGIOUS NATURE OF CROUP.—A woman having endeavoured to re-animate her child, newly dead of croup, by blowing into its mouth, was seized four days afterwards with the fibrinous form of laryngeal inflammation. The physician who attended her, after examining her throat very narrowly, felt all day a gangrenous odour, and at night was also attacked with the same form of the disease.—A child three years old was attacked with tracheal inflammation, running on to gangrene, and terminating fatally on the sixth day.

A lady who was very assiduous in her attendance upon this child, was taken ill three days before its death, and died in the same manner, after five days' illness.—A child who used often to visit the patient, was attacked on the day after his death, and likewise perished in twelve days. And, finally, the physician who attended the two last patients, was seized with a very violent cyanche, which yielded, however, to general and local depletion, without running on to gangrene, as in the three other cases. There has been evidently some peculiarity in these cases; for gangrene is a very rare termination of tracheal inflammation.—*Arch. Gen. de Med.*

VARICOSE VEINS.—Nov. 13th, 1823, M. Richerand read a short paper, at the Academy of Surgery, on the cure of varicose veins. For some time past, the professor has been in the habit of curing this state of the vessels by a simple longitudinal incision of some inches in length, applying charpie to the wound to prevent healing by the first intention, and to secure suppuration.—By this operation the vessels are emptied of the partially coagulated blood with which they are filled, and become entirely obliterated, without any inflammation spreading along the internal surface of the vessels, as is sometimes the case when they are tied or simply cut across. The pain of the operation is by no means severe. M. Richerand refers the Academy to cases which have been cured in this manner by himself and others.

TINCTURE OF NICOTIANA IN ISCHURIA.—Dr. Westburg, of Halmstad, in Sweden, has derived great advantage from the use of tincture of nicotiana in the treatment of ischuria; he gives twenty drops every hour, in a glass of linseed tea, and he has universally observed the most beneficial results, sometimes even from the second or third dose. He also employs the remedy successfully in blenorrhœa, when the patient can only make water drop by drop.—*Revue Medicale*, Nov.

A correspondent at St. Petersburg informs us that the cholera morbus has made great ravages in Russia. It was brought to Astracan by the Persian caravans, travelled round the Caspian and the Euxine seas, and carried off, during the last summer and autumn months, from 10 to 15,000 persons. The patients died with the black vomit and in convulsions.—*Med. Recorder*.

Dr. Phelps, of this city, called on us to say that about a year ago, he prescribed the articles which were mentioned in our last paper as Baron Cramer's discovery for the cure of intemperance, in the case of a woman who was apparently on the verge of the grave, in consequence of excessive drinking. She not only recovered, but has loathed all kinds of spirituous liquors ever since. Surely, if this simple remedy possesses such invaluable properties, every town in America ought to be supplied with it at the expense of the nation, for drunkenness is the great besetting sin of the new world, and the predisposing cause of more deaths, than all other diseases known to the medical profession.

John E. Cook, M. D. of Frederick county, Virginia, was the fortunate writer of an essay on Epidemic Fevers, for which he received the premium of one hundred dollars, offered by Mr. Webster, of Philadelphia, publisher of the *Med. Recorder of Medicine and Surgery*.

The Managers of the Baltimore Dispensary have passed a resolve, that the Physicians of the Institution shall attend all lying-in women gratuitously, who shall bring them a recommendation from a contributor. Also, that owing to the diminished support of the Institution, the physicians who act as such the ensuing year, receive no pecuniary compensation for their services, unless some change should take place in the funds, previous to the expiration of the year.

The Small-pox is spreading, with alarming fatality, among the Cherokee Indians. Five of the natives, on their return from Philadelphia to their nation, were attacked by the disease,—four died, and the fifth arrived at his camp, and was the means of communicating the infection. Almost every case proves mortal, and sixteen had fallen victims at the last date. Vaccine matter was sent for, to Augusta, Geo. and until checked by that sure preventive, there is a prospect that the disease will continue to spread, and be generally fatal.

William Tully, M. D. of Conn. who has recently been appointed a Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, in the Vermont Academy of Medicine, located at Castleton, is distinguished as Dr. Miner's colleague in writing those Essays on Fevers, which have excited so much interest in the medical world.

Errata.—Page 33, col. 2, line ninth from bottom, for *R. Sorptania Virginia*, read *Rad. Serpentaria Virginia*. Line eighth from bottom, for *and a strong solution of opium*, read *and a strong solution of opium was applied to the pained side*.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Ending July 16th, from the Health-Office Returns.

July 11.—Harriet Bartlett, 22; Daniel Williams; Henry Jackson, 9; George W. Plaisted, 24; Stephen Bean, 4; John Homer, 61; Elizabeth W. Spooner, 51. 12.—Ellen Bowes, 2; Isaac Rew Kimball, 16 months; Hannah Hersey, 34; Charlotte F. G. Capen, 17 mo.; Green; John Skinner, 51. 13.—Mary E. Farnsworth, 35; Elizabeth Simonds, 70. 14.—Tho. Curtis, jr. 27. 16. —Sherlock; Hannah Tucker.

Consumption, 3—Disorder of the Brain, 1—Inflammation of Head and Lungs, 1—Infantile, 1—Fits, 2—Spasms, 1—Stillborn, 2—Apoplexy, 1—Pleuritis, 1—Lingering illness, 1.

Died, at New-York, Dr. Benjamin Marshall, æt. 53. In Charleston, S. C., Dr. Frederick B. Tudor. In Mobile, Dr. Elias Roberts, of N. H.

To Teachers of Anatomy and Surgery.

THE Subscriber is engaged in making a Magnified Brain, from four to five feet round, in plaster and wax, minutely accurate, and naturally coloured, exhibiting the origin of the cerebral nerves. It revolves upon an axis, admirably calculated for demonstration to a large class, at a distance from the demonstrator.—Gentlemen desirous of securing one of these, are requested to forward their orders immediately. Price 40 dollars, without the arteries, and with them, 50 dollars.

School-street, Boston.

H. WILLIAMS.

Medical School in Boston.

THE Medical Lectures in Boston, will commence on the third WEDNESDAY in November.

Anatomy and Surgery, by Dr. WARREN. Chemistry, by Dr. GORHAM. Midwifery, and Medical Jurisprudence, by Dr. CHANNING. Materia Medica, by Dr. BIGELOW. Theory and Practice of Physic, by Dr. JACKSON.

The Massachusetts General Hospital, one of the most active and flourishing institutions in the United States, has received within a few years more than three hundred thousand dollars in private donations, in addition to its previous very liberal endowment from the State legislature. The number of surgical operations of magnitude performed in this hospital within the last two years and nine months, amounts to one hundred and twenty. Gentlemen attending the Medical Lectures, are admitted *gratuitously* to the surgical operations and clinical practice of this institution. Board can be obtained at from 2 dols. to 3 dols. per week.—A class of students exceeding one hundred, from different parts of the United States, attended the last course.

A pamphlet, containing a particular account of the Boston Medical School, and Hospital, is published for gratuitous distribution, and will be forwarded to any person, on his addressing a letter, post paid, to Mr. LEONARD HOLMES, of the Post Office, Boston.

July 6.

6w

Miner and Tully on Fevers.

FOR sale, at COTTON'S Bookstore, No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-street, ESSAYS ON FEVERS AND OTHER MEDICAL SUBJECTS: by THOMAS MINER, M. D. and WILLIAM TULLY, M. D.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER:

Published weekly, at two dollars a year. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, JULY 27, 1824.

No. 11.

OBSERVATIONS.

EUROPEAN MEDICAL SOCIETIES, MED. JOURNALS, AND MED. CRITICISM.

Translated and abridged from the *Journal General de Medicine*, published at Paris, April, 1819, and Communicated for the *Boston Medical Intelligencer*, by THOMAS MINER, M. D. of Middletown, Conn.

CONCLUDED.

When the critic wishes to obtain a reputation of great learning, it is a sore embarrassment to his readers. Every kind of management is used to amuse them, while he is running this career. All authors, ancient, modern, and of the middle ages, are ransacked. From the dusty corners of public libraries proceed a crowd of names, and of works justly forgotten, and which are commonly represented as containing invaluable treasures. Citations are made from all languages, and we are happy if the auxiliary sciences are not brought into contribution. This mania formerly prevailed over Europe; but now, except in Germany, we rarely meet with such literary gluttons, who have so great a voracity for reading, transcribing, and forcing into their service, every description of authors. In France especially, where ridicule has the force of law, the character of a pedant is so much feared, that one of an ignoramus is preferred. The latter is the principal offence of certain censors. They perplex and confound all subjects, dates, names and things. Even that learned critic, who considered Seneca as a Roman lady, is not without his parallel at the present day. This is so literally true, that in a well known periodical miscellany, one of these literati metamorphosed an old practitioner of Paris, into an Italian author.

The study of the ancients is too much neglected, real and sound erudition scarcely belongs to our age, and a knowledge of antiquity is gained from modern books only. We are contented to learn superficially, to skim the surface, and we rarely trace the streams of learning up to their sources. Who would believe that Hippocrates is forsaken, notwithstanding the eulogiums that are lavished upon his venerable name! He is often cited for his imposing authority, yet few read him, and fewer understand him. Ignorance, when covered with the veil of obscurity, is tolerable; but when we would publicly appear as the censors of others, we should be ashamed of our own ignorance. When we are badly armed, we should not voluntarily engage in the fight.—Medical journals are accused of want of discrimination. We shall not decide upon the justice of the accusation; however, the rights of distributive justice are sometimes forgotten. We are free to say, that some decide upon a work from the name of an author. It is not the work that they praise or blame, it is the man. Some censors are rigorous beyond measure. Confounding satire with criticism, they do not consider the latter as an illuminating torch; in their hands it is a dashing club.

Such are some of the reflections which we have made. We have exposed the character and object of periodical criticism in the sciences,

the difference which it presents upon these subjects, and when it is employed in general literature;—and we have more particularly endeavoured to point out the obstacles to its perfection in medicine. We have spoken freely, openly, without disguise, without bitterness, and without personality. It now remains, to attempt to trace the means of conducting medical criticism to its true end, that of contributing really and effectually to the advancement and progress of the medical art. Far from us is the pretension of attempting to give any more than the sketch of a picture, to fill up which would require superior talents.

Da veniam scriptis, quorum non gloria nobis Causa, sed utilitas, officiumque, fuit.

INSANITY

AS CONNECTED WITH JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

(Concluded from page 38.)

"Having mentioned the cases in which persons should be considered as incapable of disposing of property or committing crimes, I shall now take notice of certain morbid states of the mind, in which this should not be the case.

"1. Where the mind is deranged upon one subject only. It is necessary in this case that the subject of derangement should be unconnected with property or morals. I shall illustrate this remark by two or three examples. A certain Simon Browne, a dissenting clergyman in England, believed, for many years before he died, that God had annihilated his soul; and yet he discovered no defect of understanding upon any other subject. I ask, would it have been proper to prevent this man from disposing of his property? Again, we are told, in the memoirs of Count Maurepas, that one of the princes of the Bourbon family supposed himself to be a plant; and after fixing himself in his garden, called upon his servant to water him. Notwithstanding this strange alienation of mind, he was sensible in conversation upon all other subjects, and remarkably correct in the management of public and private business. There would certainly have been no reason why this person should not have disposed of his property, or why he should not have suffered the penalty of a breach of the criminal law of his country.

"Once more. A gentleman of worthy character became my patient some time ago, who was melancholy, from a belief that all his friends treated him with neglect or ridicule. Upon the subjects of property, politics and religion, he conversed with his usual good sense and correctness. To relieve the anguish of his mind, from the supposed cruelty of his friends, he destroyed his life. His will, made a few days before his death, and written with his own hand, bore every possible mark of a sound mind. The nature of his derangement should have mitigated his punishment, had he taken away the life of one of his supposed enemies instead of his own; for a more poignant injury can hardly be conceived of, than ridicule, especially by a former friend.

"In each of these cases, the sanity upon all subjects, except those which have been mentioned,

was uniform, and alike correct at all times; but we sometimes meet with persons equally sane upon all subjects, except one, in whom a word, or an action, that revives the single subject of derangement, never fails to involve the whole mind in disorder. More observation than I possess, is necessary to determine whether such persons should be admitted to the same judicial privileges with persons who have, under no circumstances of association or irritation, ever discovered signs of general madness.

"2. There is a state of mind called "Dementia," in France, "A Bee in the Bonnet," in Scotland, and "A Kink in the Head," in England and in this country; in which the faculties of the mind are unusually excited, and perform their offices with preternatural rapidity, and sometimes with a want of relationship in the association of ideas. Such persons should possess all the privileges of citizens with respect to property, and should expiate, by their sufferings, their violations of the criminal laws of their country.

"3. General weakness of intellect, bordering upon fatuity, should not prevent a man disposing of his property, nor exempt him from punishment for the commission of crimes, provided he has discovered in his intercourse with the world, a knowledge of the use and value of money, and has constantly acted under the influence of what are happily called "natural motives" in all the relations of life. The will of Lord Ely was wisely and justly affirmed upon these principles in the British house of lords, in the year 1775.

"4. To this head belongs, in the last place, that state of mind in which there exists a weakness or partial loss of memory. It is possible a man may forget the names, and number, and even the faces, of his children, and yet not forget that they are the lawful heirs of his property. It is possible he may forget to call his different coins by their appropriate names, and yet retain a perfect knowledge of their number, denominations and uses. He may, moreover, forget the laws of his country, and not forget the laws of God. A sensibility to the latter often exists, and often increases with a total insensibility to the former. I have conversed with many old people who had outlived their knowledge of every thing human; but who retained a lively recollection of the scriptures, and a strong sense of moral obligation. Such persons should be considered as entitled to all the benefits, and subject to all the penalties of the civil and criminal laws of our country."—THOMAS COOPER, M. D.

BARTON'S LITHOTOMY FORCEPS.

The forceps of Dr. Barton is much smaller than the one in use, being about six inches long, and the blades are thinner, with an excavation and vacuity in their extremities for receiving the stone. According to the present plan, "the bulk of stone and forceps blades, as they have to pass through the incision in the neck of the bladder, is perhaps, upon an average, double that of the stone itself—consequently, double the resistance is made to the extraction. Another objection to the common forceps is, notwithstanding all care,

the liability of the instrument to lose its hold, and the stone to slip back into the bladder, thereby greatly prolonging the patient's sufferings."—This instrument has been tried with success by Dr. Barton and others, in several cases.

DISORDERS OF LITERARY MEN.—NO. VII.

Whilst speaking of the effects of air on the system, it may be expected that we say something on *contagion*, on the putrefaction of different substances, or discuss, perhaps, the long agitated and long to be agitated question,—whether the effluvia evolved by *animal* matter during its decomposition, injures the health, or shortens the life, of those who reside within its influence. A discussion of this subject would be of little advantage to those we address, since scholars are seldom found within the precincts of a butchery, or in the immediate vicinity of establishments for the manufacture of adipocirc. Merely remarking, then, that although the animal miasm does not produce those sudden and powerful effects which result from exposure to vegetable putrefaction,—although it does not display its baneful influence by those hurricanes of disease which are but too often felt in our more southern cities, there may yet be *insidious* as well as *open* enemies to the human system;—gentle breezes may bear the seeds of slow and imperceptible decay, and all our remarks have been intended to show, that a man will enjoy better health, and a longer life, by uniformly breathing a pure atmosphere, than habitually inhaling air that is polluted—be it an animal or a vegetable which is the source of the corruption.

To ensure the important benefits of FRESH AIR, we recommend our literary friends to profit by the following directions.

1st. They should select a place of residence which is elevated—and exposed to free currents on as many sides as possible. If there must be one side closed up, let it be that which faces the east;—but it is little less than suicide, for an individual whose pursuits are sedentary, to select an habitation in the very midst of a city. We have, around our Common and Mall, a series of houses where students might find, by occupying a front room, all the advantages we have here alluded to, and enjoy at the same time that healthful excitement, which the mind derives from beautiful natural scenery, and the occasional view of a happy multitude.

2d. Their walks should not be through the confined streets of a busy metropolis, but on the banks of deep rivers, or the borders of the ocean—where there is not only a refreshing coolness and invigorating purity in the atmosphere, but where there is some beautiful fall or craggy shore—some strand whose bosom is alternately bathed and bared by the seaming and the reflux waves,—or some distant and romantic scene which engages the imagination and elevates the soul, and thus diffuses over the whole frame an agreeable excitement, which contributes at the same time to its development and its strength.—The neighborhood of shallow rivers, which are often dry, and the banks of which are polluted by decaying animal matter, are to be as studiously avoided, as those which are deep and pure are to be frequented.

3d. When students have selected a healthy residence, and returned from their refreshing promenades to pore over their books of science or philology, there is yet another precaution they should take, in order to secure a change in the air of their apartments, and a consequent supply of those important qualities which are necessary to the preservation of life and health. The

best mode of effecting this object, is by causing apertures to be made at the top of every window, with guards so constructed as to direct the air towards the ceiling, thus ensuring a constant circulation in the room, without any particular current sufficient to check perspiration, or produce any *sensible* effect on the surface of the body. In addition to this, a student should acquire a habit of throwing open his door and windows every time he leaves his study, if it is but for five minutes—unless the weather is damp or disagreeably cold. But there is no dampness or degree of cold which should induce him to close the apertures in his windows;—any difficulty of this kind is best obviated by a small fire.

By observing these, with other rules of hygiene, the student will be enabled to accomplish with facility the favorite object to which all his wishes and his endeavors tend—without inducing that fatigue of the brain, embarrassment, languor and debility of the intellectual faculties, and impairment of bodily health, which must invariably accompany his pursuits, when these rules are neglected.

For the purpose of illustrating the influence of confined air, and a superabundance of carbonic acid, we beg leave to relate the following circumstances, which though far from being new to our readers, are consequently no less to the purpose.

It recently happened at the Philadelphia Alms-house, that two men went out to repair the common sewer, and one of them fell dead immediately on inhaling the vapour which arose from it. The other ran to his assistance, and receiving the same noxious effluvia into his lungs, he shared the same fate with him he had attempted to rescue.

Young Bertholet, son of the distinguished philosopher, gave a more scientific, but no less fatal, illustration of the influence of the air on the human system.—Notwithstanding his superior talents, high attainments and flattering prospects—in spite of the enlivening society and alluring amusements of the French metropolis, he became a victim to an insupportable *ennui*. Locking himself up in a small room, and closing the apertures and crevices, he lighted a barrel of charcoal, and seated himself before a table, on which he had laid a second watch, with pen, ink, and paper. He then noted down with exactness, the hour when the charcoal was lighted, the first sensations produced by the carbonic acid gas it evolved, and the progress of his delirium, till the writing became confused and illegible, and he was found dead upon the floor.

The following case of a gentleman, well known as a scholar, is better calculated to show the influence of slighter modifications of the atmosphere on the intellect and health of men of sedentary habits and literary taste. The gentleman to whom we allude, was in the habit of studying intensely, in a small and poorly ventilated apartment, for five, six, and sometimes seven hours successively; his door and windows were kept closed, that he might not be disturbed by the noise from without. For the first two or three hours he experienced no uncomfortable sensations, but after that period he always felt heavy and fell, frequently, almost asleep. When overcome by this narcotic inclination, he was soon awakened by a sense of suffocation, and a dull pulsating pain in the head; his face was red and swollen, his features cramped, eyes inflamed, and he became almost incapable of bodily motion, and totally unfit for reading or meditation. He was in the habit, when in this state, of going into the neighboring rooms, and all his troubles would thus soon leave him. During these times he said he felt much as those birds must

feel, who, for purposes of experiment, are placed under the receiver of an air-pump, from which the air is drawn until the poor creatures are about to suffocate, and then admitted again for their recovery.—Whilst making use of this figure to illustrate his feelings, it occurred to him that his own troubles might be produced by a want of fresh air in *his receiver*—in the apartment in which he devoted himself to study. Improving on this suggestion, he took the precautions we have recommended, and has since pursued his studies with equal intensity, but without the least sensation of fatigue or languor, however long he remains in his apartment, and however profound the nature of his pursuits.

REVIEW.

ANALYTIC ANATOMY. *A Lecture introductory to a Course delivered in the Philadelphia Anatomical Rooms, Session of 1823-4. By JOHN D. GODMAN, M. D. Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology.*

When we commenced reading this production, we fully expected a long history of the advancement of analytic anatomy; and the style and talents displayed in the first page, led us to hope this history would be accurate and lucid. Our hopes, however, were soon damped by the following sentence.

“Instead of offering you a minute detail of the progress of anatomical knowledge, I shall endeavour briefly to lay before you, a few remarks on the best method in which anatomy should be taught, and may be most readily and correctly acquired; prefaced by some observations relative to the excellence and importance of our subject, which cannot be too frequently repeated, or too deeply impressed on your minds.”

A sentence which although it disappointed our expectations, gave rise to others equally great, and equally interesting, and which have been, in the sequel, more than realized. The sentiments of Dr. Godman with regard to the errors of anatomists, and the proper mode of teaching and illustrating the structure of the human body, are such as every one—preceptor and pupil—might read with equal pleasure and advantage. But we cannot forbear remarking, that the work before us is executed in a style better becoming a rich treatise on a subject of taste, than a grave anatomical lecture. As, however, it was *introductory* to his task, Dr. G. could hardly have done otherwise than make a polished discourse, for he probably spoke to a more numerous, more critical, more curious and less scientific audience, than afterwards listened to his demonstrations.

The nature of a LECTURE is seldom understood by our teachers. They generally study and write their discourses, and read them off to the class, who may listen with the greatest attention, and yet forget with the greatest facility. There should be something more *taking* than a mere dissertation, something to give a deeper interest than the most polished performance can excite, in order to impress the memory with those detailed facts which are set forth by teachers of the learned sciences. The best lecturers in Europe are in the habit of coming before their classes without any of the personal decorations so common in this country;—they then commence a series of remarks in a familiar style, and although strictly conversing with their pupils, their observations are of such practical importance, and conveyed in so interesting a manner, that the student listens with an attention a written discourse can never command, and remembers with accuracy and pleasure. An amusing story is made a peg to hang so many practical remarks on, that years may pass in the busy scenes

of life, but the story will be remembered and repeated, and forever serve as an artificial memory, to suggest the remarks in combination with which it was first related.

But to the subject of the lecture before us.

"That (says Dr. G.) which was formerly taught by stealth, mentioned with disgust or abhorrence as a sacrilegious violation of the tomb, and exposed the lives of its cultivators to danger, has attained a sublime elevation among the sciences, and is justly revered as the foundation of all that is really valuable in medicine."

Public excitement respecting the opportunities for DISSECTION, which are so necessary to correct anatomy, is directly opposed to the great interests of humanity.

Notwithstanding this, there are few complaints made with more justice, or which have a better foundation, than those which we often notice in the public papers, and have long known to exist in the public mind, against this custom of dissection. There are some young men, and we are sorry we cannot confine our remarks to young men, who without prudence, judgment, or feeling, have violated the graves of the innocent, whose memories are cherished as fondly as they were beloved when living—who have secretly stolen away from their narrow, but what they had ever looked forward to, as sacred and silent mansions, the remains of those whose bodies were still moist with the tears of filial or parental affection, perhaps even of conjugal love—and heedless of the feelings they were so severely wounding—regardless of the agonizing thorns they were planting in the bosoms of others, or the stings of unavailing regret that conscience would plunge into their own, have conveyed their horrid plunder to places designed for the harmless pursuit of that knowledge, which the tormenting upbraidings of their own reason, and the constant fear of detection, must have prevented them from acquiring.—Let us then cease to complain of our friends for censuring this custom—let us breathe no clamor against the masters of our public presses, or the legislators of our commonwealths, for lending their powerful aid in putting a stop to a practice so degrading to the profession,—so degrading to humanity; and let us learn to regulate our own conduct, and direct that of our students, so that the objects of analytic anatomy may be pursued without exciting a pang in the breast of a fellow-being, and obtained without difficulty or censure.—It is our business to relieve pain, and not to excite it,—it is our interest to win the favor of the people, not to incur their displeasure.

Were it an established law that no body should be taken from its grave, if one person followed it thither—and were no other subjects admitted into the dissecting room, except such as are legally assigned to the surgeons, dissection might be conducted with perfect decorum and every advantage, without wounding a single heart, or exciting a breath of rational complaint.—If these rules were adopted and strictly adhered to, (and whoever can violate them is better entitled to the appellation of Inhuman, than Physician or Surgeon,) we believe the least complaint on the part of the public, would be most unjust and cruel—and for the following reasons.

1st. Those who are executed for capital crimes, should invariably be given for purposes of dissection, in order that they may recompense society, in a measure, for the crimes committed during life, by doing some good when their spirits are departed.

2d. If there is not one person who feels sufficient interest or affection for the deceased, to follow his remains to

the place of their deposit, and the body is perfectly lifeless, surely no feelings can be injured by its removal; and since the good of society demands that anatomical knowledge should be acquired by post-mortem examinations, these are the cases best suited to benefit science, without the shadow of an injury to any one.

3d. There is no part of the various pursuits in the long routine of duties, which must be attended to by the medical student who intends to practice his profession understandingly or successfully, which is so exceedingly disagreeable, so revolting to his feelings, on which he enters with so much reluctance, and would dispense with half so willingly, as *dissection*;—yet is he urged to it by the conviction, which every reasonable man must feel, that without it, he can never undertake the practice of his profession with any confidence in his own knowledge, or ever gain that confidence among his friends which there is but one way to procure—that is, to *deserve* it. Who would wish, if his leg were fractured, to have it amputated by a surgeon who knows nothing of the situation of the arteries, nerves and muscles, but what he has learnt from books, and plates which are always imperfect—who has never inserted his knife into the flesh, or seen any thing beneath the *surface* of the body! What, then, is the student's motive for dissecting? It is not his own personal enjoyment, for his feelings shrink from the task;—it is purely that he may be enabled to practice his profession with skill—that when he offers himself as the guardian of human life and health, he may be enabled to perform, with readiness and correctness, every part of his professional duty—that he may not be a bungler, but an esteemed and useful physician. These are the motives which induce him to resort to a practice, which, although extremely disagreeable, is yet indispensable. If, then, the rules we have laid down are regarded by him, he is entitled to the praise and gratitude of every good man, and any complaint or prejudice against him for yielding to such motives, would be unmerited and unfeeling.

It cannot be too often repeated, that accurate ideas of anatomy can be obtained only by frequent dissection: it is a species of knowledge which cannot be handed down from one generation to another: every anatomist must dissect for himself, and without dissection there can be no such science as anatomy,—without anatomy surgery cannot exist, and medicine will be a blind, uncertain art. If, then, our cotemporaries throw impediments in the way of dissection, they may not themselves feel the effects of their imprudence, but they are entailing on their children all that misery, protracted disease, and premature death, which are now relieved by the skill which is acquired by personal and repeated attendance at the dissecting-room—by a devoted attention to analytic anatomy.

It is a common remark, that dissection may be necessary for a Surgeon, but is not requisite for a Physician. This is not only a popular belief, but a popular error. The advantages of dissection to the surgeon, are more conspicuous, because his applications are more generally and easily noticed;—the facilities it affords to the physician are less acknowledged, because his remedies are internal, and their *modus operandi* is known only to himself; but in the performance of his several duties, the physician refers as often to the structure of the body, as does the surgeon—and without an accurate knowledge of it, the one would commit as many and as fatal errors as the other, although they would be less known, because their operation would be beyond the

reach of the eye. Dissection, then, is as necessary to an enlightened physician, as to a skillful surgeon;—it enlarges our views, too, of our own wonderful structure, and elevates our sentiments of religion and our God.

"To bring these truths nearer to your minds, let us glance at the relations which subsist between the different parts of our body. We every where observe, that the nerves and blood-vessels are the great agents of sensation, nutrition, and life. Yet these have no independent existence; they are themselves supplied with nerves, blood-vessels and absorbents. Here, we are at once carried to the utmost limits of our comprehension, for in what an infinitely diminished series may not the nerves and blood-vessels exist, when they go to supply the vessels of vessels, and the nerves of nerves! Observe the manner in which the due balance of actions is maintained in our bodies; one set of vessels absorbs and another deposits; one set accumulates and another removes. When this equilibrium is destroyed, disease ensues, and, if it be not restored, death must succeed. This leads us at once to infer the true value of that knowledge, which enables us to understand the complex actions of our system, so that we may check their inordinateness, or remedy their defects. In the organs of sense, we find every thing that is wonderful in design, and admirable in execution. We behold Omnipotence in every product, and Omniscience in every plan. We see system within system, organ within organ, each differing from the other, performing different offices, all tending to the perfection of a common function; which *itself* is but a small part, contributed to the perfection of the general whole.—With such views of the subject, we may be excused for exclaiming, "What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason! How infinite in faculties! In form and moving, how express and admirable! In action, how like an angel! In apprehension, how like a God!"

Thus much for the *Importance* of dissection, and the proper method of *Procuring Subjects*. We come now to the *Mode* in which analytic anatomy should be pursued, and with regard to this, we are anxious to inculcate the sentiments expressed by our author. He advises that the subject should be untouched until brought before the student, and that every movement of the knife should be under the immediate inspection of his eye.—With great justice, he reproves the ordinary method of giving the subject an *uniform* appearance, by removing all the parts with which the teacher does not wish to be incommoded during the illustration.

"This may be systematic, but it is prejudicial; it may be according to custom, but it is not in consonance with nature. It may display admirable skill and care; it may look beautifully; it may be described learnedly, and wisely, and well; yet, after all, this is not ANATOMY; for the anatomy of the human body is the structure as fashioned and related by *nature*, not as sundered and exhibited by *art*.

It appears to us that the usual mode of preparing the subject before hand, is not unlike that of preparing a lecture;—both are unphilosophical, and calculated to convey much less information, and that in a less interesting manner, than such a course as we have pointed out and recommended.

Dr. Godman concludes by explaining to his class the distinction between *General*, *Philosophical*, and *Surgical Anatomy* or the *Anatomy of Relation*.

"GENERAL ANATOMY is a beautiful science, which sprung from the vigorous mind of the illustrious Bichat, like Minerva from the head of Jove, armed at all points. In this part of our science, we have all the textures of the system viewed together, which are properly of the same kind, and consider them in relation to the distinctive characteristics they exhibit wherever they are found, and in whatever combinations they exist. It is by general anatomy that we are taught to view the cellular, nervous, sanguineous, and other systems abstracted from each other, and consider the great laws and principles to be deduced from the phenomena they exhibit, or from the experiments which have been made on them. This science is free from all details of particular configuration or relation, and may be considered as the firmest basis for correct and enlarged views of physiology and pathology.

"PHILOSOPHICAL ANATOMY teaches us the parts of which the body is composed by a demonstration of their sensible properties, and by accurate definitions of their place and figure. It displays each part by itself, and makes a separation of the immediate subject of attention from all others; holds up to our view each instrument as a distinct exercise of the memory, and enables the physiologist by this careful display, to form accurate ideas of their individual uses."

"SURGICAL ANATOMY differs from both the former; it takes the body as nature formed it, and shows the relations which exist between the different portions. As it is the business of the surgeon to act instantaneously, so is it the business of the surgical anatomist to display the structure of the body in its relations of parts. He destroys nothing to exhibit what lies beneath—he makes no incision that is not to be seen—he separates no parts according to their functions—he can only exhibit them *as they are*. In this way he becomes accustomed to the natural connections, and knows what he is to meet with at every successive incision."

INTELLIGENCE.

ANATOMICAL PHENOMENA.—The body of a gentleman, who died in Louisville, Ken., a few weeks since, was opened by some members of the faculty, for inspection; from which the following remarkable visceral transposition was discovered: The heart was found in the right cavity of the breast, with auricles and ventricles reversed, and the aorta arching toward the right instead of the left side, descending the spine in the usual course of the venæ cavæ, which last were situated where the aorta should have been. The great lobe of the liver occupied the left hypochondriac region, with the small lobe extending a little to the right. The spleen was found in the right side, where the liver should have been situated. The stomach was reversed with regard to its position, having the larger curvature on the right, the small curvature and the pyloric orifice on the left.—The intestines were likewise changed in the order of arrangement, the duodenum commencing and lying principally on the left side, and the sigmoid flexure of the colon on the right.

This examination was extended far enough to satisfy those present that this anomaly was a *lusus naturæ* of the remotest embryotic origin, and could not possibly have resulted from disease, at any period of his life. This gentleman died in

the 30th year, and is said to have been remarkably healthy and athletic until within two or three years past, during which time he had suffered much from derangement of the liver and spleen, probably produced by his removal from a northern climate, of which disease he died.

PRUSSIC ACID.—It is more than two years since Dr. Macleod published some observations on the good effects of prussic acid in some cases of dyspepsia. More extended experience has confirmed him in regarding this remedy as of considerable power in those forms of indigestion which are attended with much pain in the stomach and flatulence. Palpitation of the heart is not an unusual attendant on dyspepsia, sometimes simulating angina pectoris. In organic affections of the heart, too, we very generally have symptoms of dyspepsia, which aggravate the original disease. "In such instances of morbid action of the heart brought on by dyspepsia, or of dyspepsia sympathetic of organic disease of the heart, I am inclined," says Dr. Macleod, "to think that much benefit is to be obtained from the employment of prussic acid."—*Johnson's Journal*.

DIABETES.—A case is related of diabetes, in a man aged 33 years, where the disease resisted various methods of treatment till—"hard work, aided by warm clothing, and a scruple of Dover's powder at night, entirely removed the disease." An inordinate and unhealthy action of any one organ, is pretty generally restrained by increasing the function of some other organ. It is evident that the skin, as an extensive outlet, sympathizing powerfully with almost all the glandular viscera, is an important agent in the removal as well as in the production of diseases. Its agency, therefore, should generally be employed in diabetes. Dr. Carter's practice, he observes himself, is not new—but that is of little consequence, provided it is useful.—*Johnson's Journ.*

TRACHEOTOMY.—Mr. Liston has lately performed the operation of tracheotomy in two cases—one for œdema glottidis, and the other for injury of the larynx.—The case of œdema glottidis was one of pressing danger, and where suffocation was impending. Considerable difficulty was experienced in keeping the tube in the trachea, and the necessity for its presence there has continued ever since, as the aperture of the rima glottidis is not of such dimensions as to enable the patient to dispense with the tube. This case bears the nearest resemblance to that of Mr. Price, (related in a former number of this Journal,) of any on record. Mr. Price has now breathed through the tube nearly eight years, and is in good health at Portsmouth.—*Ibid.*

CALISAYA ARROLLENDI.—Calysaya Bark, is beginning to attract attention as a remedy for intermittents. Mr. Carpenter, an ingenious chemist, states that double the usual quantity of the sulphate of quinine can be obtained from it, a fact which augurs well for its utility.

VACCINATION.—On the 14th of May last, the physicians of Berlin celebrated, as they have done for fourteen years past, Dr. Jenner's grand discovery of vaccination. From the lists sent to the Society from all parts of the kingdom, it appears that the number of individuals vaccinated during last year, amounted to 330,905.

NEW PUBLICATIONS. By *Cummings, Hilliard, & Co. Boston.*—*Florula Bostoniensis*, a collection of Plants of Boston and its vicinity. By Jacob Bigelow, M. D. Second edition, greatly enlarged. To which is added, a Glossary of Botanical Terms employed in the work.

By *A. Sherman, Philadelphia.*—No. I. of the *Med. Review*, and *Analytic Journal*, for June, 1824. Conducted by J. Eberle, M. D. Mem. of the American Philosophical Society, &c. and G. McClellan, M. D. Lecturer on Anatomy, Physiology, and Surgery.

By *Carey & Lea, Philadelphia.*—*Anatomical Investigations.* By Dr. Godman. 8vo. Plates.

By *E. Littell, Philadelphia.*—*The Journal of Foreign Medical Science and Literature*, No. XV. Edited by John D. Godman, M. D.

IN PRESS. By *Carey & Lea, Philadelphia.*—*Johnson on the Liver.* A Treatise on Derangements of the Liver, Internal Organs, and Nervous System, Pathological and Therapeutical. By John Johnson, M. D.

TO CORRESPONDENTS AND READERS.—The valuable communication from our respected friend W, is unavoidably postponed till next week. Several other favors remain on our table, to be acknowledged by as early an insertion as possible.

In the latin phrase in the first column of last week's paper, our readers must have remarked some typographical errors. It should have been—*Fili, ab academia venis, fastum spiras, ex inani serinio, ex indocto corpore.*

In speaking of the antidote for intemperance, last week, we laboured under a partial mistake, and are requested by Dr. Phelps, to say, that he gave the patient only the quassia, cascarilla, and gentian, as a tonic bitter, without any reference to curing the habit of intoxication. Although the woman still remains well, it is uncertain, in his opinion, whether it is the result of his advice to abstain from so great an evil, or the effect of the medicine. He also observes that he has under his care several cases in which he is trying the efficacy of Baron Cramer's remedy, the result of which will be duly made known to our readers.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Ending July 24th, from the Health-Office Returns.

July 18.—William Parsons; ——— Higgin; Zephaniah Spurr, 56. 19.—Child of Martin Smith, 3 weeks. 20.—Elizabeth Jemerson, 60; ——— Griffith. 21.—Betsey Chase, 33. 22.—Levi Hunt, 44; Richard Long. 23.—Mrs. Sullivan; Hannah Jennings, 33; ——— Redman; ———, child. 24.—Maria Denny, 36; James Patridge, 27.

Consumption, 4.—*Stillborn*, 1.—*Teething*, 1.—*Dropsy in the Head*, 1.—*Childbed*, 1.—*Fat on the Heart*, 1.

To Teachers of Anatomy and Surgery.

THE Subscriber is engaged in making a Magnified Brain, from four to five feet round, in plaster and wax, minutely accurate, and naturally coloured, exhibiting the origin of the cerebral nerves. It revolves upon an axis, admirably calculated for demonstration to a large class, at a distance from the demonstrator.—Gentlemen desirous of securing one of these, are requested to forward their orders immediately. Price 40 dollars, without the arteries, and with them, 50 dollars.

School-street, Boston.

H. WILLIAMS.

Medical School in Boston.

THE Medical Lectures in Boston, will commence on the third WEDNESDAY in November.

Anatomy and Surgery, by Dr. WARREN. Chemistry, by Dr. GORHAM. Midwifery, and Medical Jurisprudence, by Dr. CHANNING. Materia Medica, by Dr. BIGELOW. Theory and Practice of Physic, by Dr. JACKSON.

The Massachusetts General Hospital, one of the most active and flourishing institutions in the United States, has received within a few years more than *three hundred thousand dollars* in private donations, in addition to its previous very liberal endowment from the State legislature. The number of surgical operations of magnitude performed in this hospital within the last two years and nine months, amounts to *one hundred and twenty*. Gentlemen attending the Medical Lectures, are admitted *gratuitously* to the surgical operations and clinical practice of this institution. Board can be obtained at from 2 dols. to 3 dols. per week.—A class of students exceeding one hundred, from different parts of the United States, attended the last course.

A pamphlet, containing a particular account of the Boston Medical School, and Hospital, is published for gratuitous distribution, and will be forwarded to any person, on his addressing a letter, post paid, to Mr. LEONARD HOLMES, of the Post Office, Boston.

July 6.

6w

Miner and Tully on Fevers.

FOR sale, at COTTON'S Bookstore, No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-street, ESSAYS ON FEVERS AND OTHER MEDICAL SUBJECTS: by THOMAS MINER, M. D. and WILLIAM TULLY, M. D.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER :

Published weekly, at two dollars a year. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

OBSERVATIONS.

MEDICAL LITERATURE OF RHODE-ISLAND, WITH A SKETCH OF SOME OF HER MOST EMINENT MEN. Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer.

Rhode-Island, from its salubrity and surpassing beauty, before the revolutionary war so sadly defaced it, was the chosen resort of the rich and the philosophic, from nearly all parts of the civilized world. In no spot of the thirteen, or rather twelve colonies, was there concentrated more individual opulence, learning, science, and liberal leisure. But let us leave round assertions, and attend to facts.

In 1721, the celebrated Dean Berkley, afterwards bishop of Cloyne, arrived at Newport, R. I., with four or five opulent and literary companions, one of whom was a baronet. They crossed the Atlantic for the purpose of erecting a college at Bermuda, chiefly for the conversion and education of the Indians. They either could not find that island, or else they supposed it was in the vicinity of Rhode-Island. When they landed in the S. E. part of the island, they were all armed, in expectation of seeing the natives;—and when they came round to the proper harbour, they found a spacious town, as large as Salem then was, with several places of worship, and among them a handsome church, and a large congregation of Episcopalians. Having found their mistake, they concluded to remain where they were. It was there the celebrated Dignitary of the English church is said to have written his immortal work,—*"the Minute Philosopher."* He built *white-hall*; and when he finally returned home, he gave that structure, with the farm annexed to it, together with his library, to Yale College. He gave a fine organ to Trinity Church at Newport, and left memorials of his friendship to some congenial souls on the island. It is not more than 30 years since a very aged gentleman of Boston, (Shrimpton Hutchinson, Esq.) told the writer that he remembered hearing the learned bishop preach at Newport.

About the year 1740, John Brett, M. D., settled at Newport. A graduate in medicine was a very rare thing, any where in America, at that day. He acquired reputation and consequence from having attended the lectures of the great Boerhaave at Leyden. Some of his original notes are now in possession of the writer. Cotemporary with him, was Dr. Thomas Rodman, and with them, Macgraw of New-York, a physician of the Radcliffe school. Metallurgical chemistry was perhaps as well known, if not better, at that period in Rhode-Island, as in any city in the English colonies.

Sometime about the year 1754, Abraham Redwood, Esq. a judicious and opulent gentleman of the Society of Friends, founded the "*Redwood Library*," and gave five hundred pounds sterling for books, to be purchased in London; which commission was judiciously and faithfully executed. The medical part of them were excellent. They were amply sufficient to give the medical student competent information of all that was then known in the English language, on *Anato-*

my, Surgery, Chemistry and Botany, together with the history of drugs, and of their various preparations and uses, with the history of the progress of Physic from Hippocrates to Boerhaave. At that time there were more and completer chemical laboratories in Rhode-Island, than were to be found any where in Massachusetts prior to 15 years ago. The British plundered the Redwood Library of the English classics and all the light reading.

If it be asked—what were they doing in Philadelphia all this time? we answer, *nothing*, if we except Franklin's exhibitions of electricity.—There was then no considerable library, public or private, excepting one owned by William Logan Esq. another wealthy and generous patron of literature among the Quakers—the *Abraham Redwood* of Pennsylvania. Is it asked—what were they doing in the medical and philosophical line in Boston, at that time?—*Pelting Dr. ZABDIEL BOYLSTON with stones, as he passed the streets in the day, and breaking his windows by night, for introducing Inoculation for Small-pox.** What were they doing at Cambridge, between 1721 and 1754?—Ask your grandfathers. And what were they doing at Rhode-Island?—Reading the best collection of books then to be found in any town in New-England, (Cambridge alone excepted,) which gave to Newport a literary cast of character, which it sustained till the revolutionary war, that is, till their distinguished men were dispersed.

About 1750, Thomas Moffat, M. D. a learned Scotch physician, settled on Rhode-Island. He was often consulted and appealed to, but had no relish for general and promiscuous practice. He incurred popular odium for his political opinions, and was driven from the country in 1772. Cotemporary with him, was Judge Robert Lightfoot, an Englishman and graduate of Oxford, eminent for his learning and knowledge of books, and remarkably well read in physic. He was the most learned member of a political club, which were dispersed in 1775.

About the year 1756, Dr. William Hunter,—"*clarum et venerabile nomen*," gave at Newport, R. I. the first *Anatomical and Surgical Lectures* ever delivered in the twelve colonies. They were delivered in the court-house two seasons in succession, by cards of invitation, and to great satisfaction. His collection of instruments was much larger than any professor exhibits at this day. Dr. Hunter was a man of talents, well educated at Edinburgh, and a gentleman of taste in the fine arts. He practised from the time of his public lecturing at R. I. till the British occupied it, and died a hospital surgeon in their service.

In 1772, Dr. John Halliburton, another Scotchman, quitted the British service, and practised with great reputation, especially in Surgery, to 1780. We doubt whether Boston, New-York or Philadelphia, ever had, at the same time, two practitioners of Physic and Surgery, better educated and more skillful than these two gentlemen.

To them succeeded the late Dr. Isaac Senter, whose character is too well known for me to

dwelt upon, since he is quoted with approbation in Europe. Nor ought we to pass over in silence the name of Dr. Charles Antonio Wigner, of German origin, who practised full thirty years on Rhode-Island, and was there, what Dr. Kast was in Boston.

From these *historical facts*, the reader will be able to judge whether the Rhode-Island Physicians had not once as good a right to the title of *leaders* in the art, as they have now to that of *imitators*.* for it should be borne in mind, that when Dr. William Hunter taught publicly Anatomy and Surgery at Rhode-Island, the Medical School at Philadelphia was not in existence.—The Hon. William Hunter, now senator in Congress, is the son of the respectable physician just mentioned, and who has recently presented some valuable books, belonging to his father's library; to that of the College of Rhode-Island, at Providence.—Thus much for the MEDICAL rank of Rhode-Island.—Let us now say a word on its GENERAL LITERATURE, and on the fertility of that little colony in eminent men; for after she became an independent state, the glory of her island in a great measure departed.

Rhode-Island, which is about 15 miles long, and from three to six broad, has, from its salubrity, variety, temperature, and surpassing beauty, been considered, during the past century, as *the Bath of America*, and resorted to accordingly, either for the summer season, or as a permanent residence of opulence, and literary leisure.—Hence we may account for her numerous fine country seats, and for her two distinct ranks of people; her aristocracy, and her West-Indian and African traders; her stationary men, and her men of navigation.

Among her divines, distinguished for learning, may be mentioned the Rev. John Callender, who has given the best history of the colony—and the Rev. Dr. Edward Stiles, who was for a number of years pastor of a congregational church, and librarian of the Redwood Library, and who died President of Yale College. When he died, he left not a more learned man in America.

The Rev. Arthur Brown, who was President of Trinity College, Dublin, and vicar general of K—, [the writer does not exactly remember the name of the district,] was born, and received his school education at Newport—a very learned and distinguished man, even in the metropolis of Ireland.—The Rev. Dr. Hopkins, founder of the *Hopkinsian sect*, lived and died at Rhode-Island. His admirers and opponents can judge of him by his writings; as a man, he was venerable for his goodness, and respectable as a metaphysician.

Newport was never wanting in good classical schools. The Episcopal church and the Quakers, who were very numerous, took particular care of education, especially the first. Newport was the only place in New-England where the Hebrew language was publicly read and chanted, two or three times a week, by perhaps 300 of the descendants of Abraham. It is not there-

* See the Sermons and Pamphlets of that day,

* See Med. Intelligencer, Vol. II. p. 38.

fore extraordinary, that all these facts and circumstances gave a literary cast to the major part of the inhabitants of Newport, and made them as distinguished, seventy years ago, in the North American colonies, as Geneva was two hundred years past, in Italy and Switzerland.

If we turn from literature to the military department, we shall find that the *next man* to Washington—General Green, was of Rhode-Island; and nobody will contradict the assertion, that she has given to the age its first painter of the human head. (Stewart.)

Recurring to the higher branches of the mechanical arts, we need only mention the name of Joseph Brown, Esq. of Providence, who constructed, from a written description, the first steam engine for evacuating mines of their water,—an Herculean task at that time, when he had none able to help him. If we are not mistaken, the casting and boring of large cannon, was performed at the same establishment, near Providence, many years before it was attempted in any other part of America.

The first garden in New-England, that had any pretensions to the name of *botanical* garden, was reared by Mr. Redwood, the gentleman who founded the library.

In architectural taste and costly structure, Newport stood pre-eminent. No dwelling-house in America was equal to one belonging to M. Malbone, within a mile or two of the town.—Where is there a structure now, in New-England, that surpasses the Redwood Library? We have only to lament its perishable material. If you say that it was copied from an Athenian temple, still there is some credit due to them in selecting, 70 years ago, and relishing, so chaste a specimen of Grecian taste.

But—we may say of Rhode-Island, in the language of Goldsmith,

These were thy charms; but all these charms are fled!

The sad question is—how came they to flee? The tale is too long and dismal to be particular. Suffice it to say, that before the revolution, Newport was a large and flourishing town; that when it became an English garrison, the people of wealth and consequence quitted it, and the town of Providence rose on its ruins. Since then, that once beautiful spot resembles an old battered shield, long held up against the common enemy.—The town of Providence has now become so opulent, and got so far the start of Newport, as to be able always to keep it. Its College or University, from very small beginnings, has attained a respectable standing; and is in a fair way of becoming eminent: and it may not be amiss to remark here, that the first lectures on *Natural History*, particularly in *Mineralogy* and *Botany*, ever given in North America, were delivered in the College at Providence, in the year 1784, or about three years earlier than they commenced at Cambridge.

Cambridge, July, 1824.

OIL OF CROTON TIGLIUM.

The oil of *Croton Tiglium*, which has very lately been revived into practice, possesses the most decidedly powerful cathartic properties, of any article in the class of purgatives. We know of a recent case, in which its superiority over other long tried medicines, was completely manifested. An aged man was admitted into the Marine Hospital, labouring under an in-

flammation of the bowels and stomach. Every medicine given him, was immediately rejected, before he was brought to the hospital, and he had no dejection for three weeks previous. The physician of the hospital prescribed small doses of calomel and jalap, amounting in the whole, to twenty grains of the former, and fifteen of the latter, but without producing any alvine evacuation. Repeated enemata were also entirely ineffectual. The Croton Oil was next resorted to, and given in the form of a pill, containing half a drop, only.—In this manner, two drops and a half were administered; the emesis ceased, and the patient had an operation. Half a drop, in ordinary cases, is a sufficient cathartic for an adult; two drops is a great dose, and very drastic. The patient complains of an uneasy pain in the bowels, accompanied by gripings, if the quantity given be too great.

There is no doubt that this article, if judiciously prescribed, will ultimately become an important addition to the materia medica. A medical gentleman of this city, who had obtained one seed, before the oil was imported, pulverized, and made an infusion of it in one ounce of alcohol, of which one drachm was a sufficient dose. The English physicians are in the habit of giving the oil in the form of a draught; but the method adopted here, which we think preferable, is to drop the oil on a small quantity of oatmeal, to which a solution of gum Arabic is added, and form it into a pill.

Physicians can obtain the oil by applying to Dr. Clark, at the Boston Dispensary, Cornhill.

CACOETHES SCRIBENDI.

In a general way, it is our business to relieve and prevent diseases—not to promote them;—we would fain, however, see that rare malady, the name of which we have placed at the head of this article, spreading more rapidly among the faculty. If American physicians are chargeable with faults, there are few more conspicuous than their neglect in writing the histories of their practice. We are totally at a loss to account for this circumstance; nevertheless, it is a melancholy fact, that scarcely one medical gentleman in a thousand, commits any thing to paper but his *fees*. There are many of the most distinguished professional gentlemen in America, whose judgment and clinical experience have so much weight abroad, that they are not only consulted at great distances, but are continually surrounded by pupils, eager to profit by every sentence they may happen to utter, yet their extensive knowledge will be of no benefit to the world after their decease, either because they have not cultivated a talent for committing their thoughts to paper, or else from downright constitutional inactivity. A want of time is no excuse for this neglect, for we have experimentally ascertained, that there may be found leisure enough amid the cares and perplexities of professional routine, to minute the observations of a day or a week, without at all infringing on the ordinary demands of practice.

The object of these remarks is not to induce every person who deals out a cathartic to become an author;—this would be an evil, if possible more serious to the community, than the neglect of which we complain; but we should be exceedingly pleased to see more frequent reports of those anomalous cases of disease, which are occasionally presented to the eye of every physician, but for which there can be found no precedent in practice, merely because no one has taken pains to describe them with sufficient accuracy.

There are peculiarities in the endemial diseases of this country, which are but imperfectly understood, ex-

cept by those whose local situations give them an opportunity of observing them, and correct histories of which would be a most valuable acquisition to the great medical fund. Surgery and morbid anatomy are always laying open new views, which, however trivial they may appear to persons familiar with the peculiarities of certain cases, must always be considered of the utmost consequence to the profession. Medicine, too, we beg our brethren to remember, is a progressive science, in the advancement of which, every friend of human nature must feel the warmest interest;—but when physicians grow cold in promoting the objects it embraces, its character and theirs must suffer together.

METHODS OF DISPENSING MEDICINE.

Perhaps there is not a place on the globe, where medical men are so consummately well educated, as in this country—where medicine is dealt out to the sick with so much *sans froid*, and so much *by guess*, as in the United States. It is a constant habit among the generality of practitioners in New-England, but more particularly in the interior, when the disease has been determined, and proper and judicious remedies are selected, to *guess* at the dose. Many years since, while we were attending a course of lectures at Dartmouth College, the distinguished Dr. Nathan Smith, who was then a public teacher in that institution, particularly descanted before his class, on a certain occasion, upon the evils of *guessing*, which he observed had become completely fashionable, merely because the labour was so much less than a regular course of specifying drachms and grains. After speaking in the most earnest and decided manner against dealing out a medicine, however well acquainted the physician might be with its properties, without weighing it, he observed that the best practitioner whom he ever knew in New-Hampshire, never presumed to administer the most simple article of medicine, without first taking a pair of scales from his saddle-bags, and weighing it in the most careful manner.

There is something excessively amusing to a physician who does all his business by prescriptions, to see his professional brethren in the country, carry an apothecary's shop in miniature to every house they visit;—and *they* wonder equally as much, that people in cities are willing to be duped so much as to employ physicians who never even see a portion of the medicine which they may have ordered during their attendance on a case of the most dangerous disease. Custom, as well as necessity, renders both of these modes excellent, and there is no possible way of giving timely assistance to the distressed in any more expeditious manner, nor better fitted to the local circumstances of the dense population of a city, or the scattered inhabitants of a country town.

If country physicians were as particular in specifying doses, as those in cities, we should certainly give their mode of practice the preference; but the too general habit of *guessing* at about ten grains of jalap, two of calomel, &c. oftentimes produces very disagreeable consequences to the patient, and vexation to the physician, which could easily be avoided by carrying a delicate pair of scales.—Were our apothecaries to guess at *about the right quantity*, instead of weighing precisely, by the characters of a prescription, not only the best physicians' knowledge would frequently be called in question, but their exertions for the recovery of a patient, oftentimes wholly defeated.

It is indeed lamentable to view the progress of *refinement*, as it is called, in our cities, in relation to the

practice of Physic and Surgery. We are already overstocked with bleeders, professional teeth-drawers and accoucheuses, who, without even a distant knowledge of the anatomical structure of the delicate machine they are so willing to regulate, are your humble servants any hour in the twenty-four, for a trifling compensation, and at the same time present you a pocket-full of certificates from eminent seniors in the profession, who recommend them to the notice of a discerning public. Though we have not yet been favoured with a worshipful company of barber-surgeons, phlebotomists are becoming so numerous, that we begin to be afraid lest some one should forget his razor and soap, and in the height of professional enthusiasm, puncture our carotids, just by way of experiment.—Such innovations can never be tolerated in the country; and this is certainly a subject of congratulation, not only to the physician, but to all classes of people. If they are subject to some inconveniences, arising from a want of strict regard to the measurement of medicine, we have our jaws broken with great skill, or Sangrado, with a razor in one hand, and a lancet in the other, assuring us he could bleed us to death without our feeling it!

CARBONATED SARSAPARILLA MEAD.

In hot weather, every body will drink. The question is, *what* shall they drink? This question has afforded opportunities for the Chemists to combine substances which are calculated to neutralize the acid in the stomach, and counteract septic tendencies and the putrefactive process;—for Physicians to eke out substances from the materia medica, which, by infusion, solution, or decoction, are suited to brace the system, and counteract, by their habitual use, the debilitating influence of heat;—for Apothecaries to compose, nicely put up, have stamped, and sell, perhaps at a profit, various species of syrups and powders;—and for dealers in palate-pleasers to decorate their shops with apparatus for drawing beer, ale, porter, soda water, rochelle water, liquid magnesia, mead, carbonated mead, and now lastly *carbonated sarsaparilla mead*.

It is true a great variety of articles of this description may be got at the Soda-shops, but we are glad to see the number increasing, if it but increases in the right direction. When *health* is the object of each improvement, the improvements cannot be too numerous. Of all the articles hitherto in use, none has been so well calculated to unite the advantages of being pleasant to the taste, purifying to the blood, strengthening to the system, and softening to the skin, as the article which is just added to the list; and we think it will prove to be the most agreeable, salutary and fashionable, of all our summer potations.

NEW MEDICAL JOURNAL.

We have received and read with great pleasure, the first number of a Journal, entitled the N. York Monthly Chronicle of Medicine and Surgery. The good judgment and candor manifested in the several articles, and the manly style in which they are written, bespeak a support which promises well, and we hope the high expectations this first number cannot fail to excite, will not be disappointed. There is *system* about the work,—it is divided into four departments, viz.—1st. *Original Department*.—This contains an essay on the misrepresentations of British writers in relation to American Medicine; and Observations on Small-pox, Varioloid, &c. 2d. *Review*.—Under this head are just criticisms on Hosack's Essays, Averill's Surgery, and the N. York Medical and Physical Journal. 3d. *Bibliog-*

raphy—or short sketches of medical publications. This number contains brief notices of Hosack's Essays, Smith's Epidemics, Murray's Materia Medica, Smith's Essay on Typhous Fever, Magendie's Physiology. Burns' Surgical Anatomy of the Head, and Gibson's Surgery. 4th. *Selections*.—Galvanic Experiments, Account of a new operation for removing the Cataract, &c. 5th. *Miscellanies*.—Account of diseases, Notice of Med. College in Charleston, Officers of the Med. Society of N. York for 1824, &c.—We think the work highly respectable, and calculated to extend useful information and candid research, and hope, therefore, it will be widely circulated.

REPORTS.

BANCAAN OPERATION,

OR AN OLD WAY TO MAKE NEW NOSES.

The art of making new noses is by no means a modern expedient. Banca, an Italian Physician, who flourished in the fifteenth century, was distinguished for his skill in repairing maimed noses, and replacing the loss of those useful and prominent appendages to the human physiognomy. To him, persons who had lost this important projection, were in the habit of resorting, from places situated at a great distance from Naples, the residence of the ingenious operator. To him also is the credit of first performing this operation, due, although it has usually been ascribed to Gaspar Tagliacozza, a professor of Anatomy at Bologna, and chief Surgeon to the Grand Duke of Tuscany, who wrote a treatise, *De curtis membris*, about the end of the sixteenth century. This treatise is dedicated to his great master, and contains engravings of the instruments which he made use of in his famous operations.—Hence has the *feat* of which we have spoken been long, though improperly, denominated the *Taliacotian operation*. John Baptist Cortezzi, a disciple of Taliacotius, was the next gentleman who distinguished himself as a repairer of noses; he resided in Sicily, and was generally successful. About the middle of the seventeenth century, Phioravant stitched on a nose which had been cut off by a sword, and the part adhered by the first intention. S. C. Carpue, an English surgeon of great eminence, has recently given the public a history of two successful attempts he has made to restore this organ, and Dr. J. Stearns Hurd, of Charlestown, Mass. who though yet a young man, is well known as a surgeon of great skill and erudition, has performed the operation with great success on a native Hindoo, who is now in this city, exhibiting his restored appendix to gratify the curiosity of the public, and replenish his own empty coffers.

Van Helmont has recorded the following wonderful history.

A respectable gentleman of Brussels, who had lost his nose in battle, repaired to Tagliacozza, a surgeon of Bologna, to have his nose restored; and as he dreaded to have the incision made in his own arm, a labouring man was found, who, for a remuneration, suffered the nose to be taken from his arm. About thirteen months after his return to Brussels, the adscititious nose suddenly became cold, and, after a few days, dropped off in a state of putrefaction. The cause of this unexpected occurrence having been investigated, it was discovered, that at the same moment in which the nose grew cold, the labourer at Bologna expired. Persons still living at Brussels, were eye-witnesses of this transaction.

Phioravant relates a case of a similar nature, which we shall give in his own words, as follows:—

Of the cure of one that had his nose cut off, and set on again.—In that time when I was in Africa, there happened a strange circumstance, and that was thus. A certain gentleman, a Spaniard, that was called *Il Seignior Andreas Gertiero*, of the age of 29 years, upon a time walked in the field, and fell at words with a souldier, and began to draw. The souldier seeing that, struck him with the left hand, and cut off his nose, and there it fell down in the sand; then I happened to stand by and took it up, and washed away the sand, and stitched it on again very close, and dressed it with our *Balsamo artificiato*, and bound it up, and so let it remain eight days, thinking that it would have come to matter: nevertheless, when I did unbind it, I found it fast conglutinated, and then I dressed it only once more, and he was perfectly whole, so that all Naples did marvell thereat, as is well known, for the said Sig. Andrea doth live yet, and can testifie the same.

The case we shall next record, is quoted by Mr. Carpue from Mr. Garengot, a distinguished French surgeon.

It was in the month of September, 1724, that a soldier of the regiment of Conti, coming out of l'Épée Royale, from an inn in the corner of the street Deux Ecus, was attacked by one of his comrades, and in the struggle, had his nose bitten off, so as to remove almost all the cartilaginous part. His adversary, perceiving that he had a bit of flesh in his mouth, spat it out into the gutter, and endeavoured to crush it, by trampling on it. The soldier, who on his part was not less eager, took up the end of his nose and threw it into the shop of M. Galen, a brother practitioner of mine, while he ran after his adversary. During this time, M. Galen examined the nose, and as it was covered with dirt, he washed it at the well. The soldier returning to be dressed, M. Galin washed his wound and face, which were covered with blood, with a little warm water, and then put the extremity of the nose into this liquor to heat it a little. Having, in this manner, cleansed the wound, M. Galin now put the nose in its natural position, and retained it there by means of an agglutinating plaster and bandage. Next day the union appeared to have taken place; and on the fourth day, I myself dressed him, with M. Galin, and saw that the extremity of the nose was perfectly united, and cicatrized.

The following case is the one referred to in our foregoing remarks.

Peter Johnson, a native of Hindostan, was admitted into the Alms-house at Charlestown, Mass. and stated that he was unable to get a living, because nobody would work with so hideous a fellow-laborer, and at his solicitation, Dr. Hurd undertook the operation. The subject of it had the misfortune to be deprived of his nose about ten years ago, so that the nostrils were exposed, presenting a deep and disgusting cavity, and a small projection of the superior portion of the nasal bones, was the only part of the organ remaining. Dr. Hurd, after removing the cicatrix to the margin of the cavity, detached, by an incision through the integuments of the forehead, a portion of skin of such figure and size as, when turned round, formed, by the assistance of tents, a regularly proportioned nose—the edges of the skin fitting very accurately into the line which had been prepared to receive

them, and the little projection of the flap which had been cut from the upper part of the forehead, forming, when turned down, a perfect septum. This artificial nose was closely secured by sutures, and we are happy to be able to add, that adhesion soon took place, and an organ will be left to the patient quite equal in appearance to that which originally occupied its place. The edges of the wound in the forehead were next drawn nearly together, so that the only deformity which remains, is such as may be easily concealed by the hair.

OSSIFICATION OF THE MITRAL VALVES, AND ANEURISM OF THE LEFT AURICLE OF THE HEART.

*Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer,
By Dr. E. DICKINSON, of Hadley, Mass.*

S. N. an unmarried lady, aged 38 years, had for the last fourteen years been a subject of ill health, but for the most part able to keep about. Sometime in the latter part of March last, while absent from this place, she was attacked, according to the best information I could obtain, with symptoms of pneumonic inflammation, and was treated by a neighboring physician accordingly. After having recovered in some degree, or rather after having passed through the first stage of the disease, she was brought to her friends in this place, after which time, until her death, I was concerned in her medical treatment.

The most urgent symptoms were the following;—extreme difficulty of breathing, inability to sustain a recumbent posture, some cough, violent palpitation of the heart and throbbing of the carotid arteries, pulse at the wrist rather feeble and intermittent, and appetite bad. A variety of articles of the materia medica, were tried in succession, with only a palliative effect. A pill of digitalis, opium and squills, relieved the cough; syrup of blood-root was also used for the same purpose; tartar-emetic ointment was applied to the chest; diluted nitric acid relieved the difficulty of breathing; balsam copaiba was also given. After a time the blue pill was given, and continued for a few days, which produced a moderate pyalism; after this had subsided, she appeared better, had a tolerable appetite, was able to lie down, and passed her nights with a great degree of comfort. But this relief was temporary; the lower extremities soon became excessively œdematous, the appetite failed, and she was unable to lie down for a fortnight before her death.

Twelve hours after death, I examined the body. On raising the sternum, a large apparently membranous bag presented to view, of the size of an ordinary stomach, distended with a fluid. This I took to be the pericardium. On making an incision into it, some fluid blood was discharged. I enlarged the opening, thrust in my hand, and removed nearly three pounds of coagulated blood. On farther inspection, I found this cavity to be the left auricle of the heart, the pericardium adhering strongly to its entire surface. The left auricle itself and the pericardium, were scarcely as thick as that membrane in a healthy state.—The mitral valves were completely ossified, so as to be entirely inadequate to prevent the regurgitation of blood at every contraction of the ventricle.

The heart showed no other signs of disease than those mentioned, excepting that at the giving off of the aorta, were found two or three of

those substances commonly called Polypi.—The other viscera were tolerably healthy. There was a large effusion of serum in the cavity of the thorax and abdomen.

INTELLIGENCE.

NEW-YORK MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At the anniversary meeting of the Medical Society for the city and county of N. York, held on the 6th ult. at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Barclay-street, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:—David Hosack, M. D. President—John Watts, M. D. Vice President—Felix Pascalis, M. D. Corresponding Secretary—Nicoll H. Dering, M. D. Sec.—Dr. David Rogers, Treasurer—John Stearns, M. D., John C. Cheesman, M. D., John B. Beck, M. D., Dr. Peter C. Tappen, Samuel W. Moore, M. D., Censors.—John Beck, M. D., Dr. Eldridge Dummel, John W. Francis, M. D., Samuel W. Moore, M. D., John Stearns, M. D., Lecturers.—James R. Manley, M. D. Delegate to Albany.

PHILADELPHIA HOSPITAL.—Drs. John Wilson Moore and John Rhea Barton, have been appointed physicians to this Institution; and the lying-in department is entrusted to Dr. J. Moore, No 63, South Seventh St.

MEDICAL LITERATURE.—Dr. Didier is preparing for the press, a work to be entitled "Essays on Syphilis, and its consequences." To the work will be appended a few specimens of translations from the elegant Latin poem of Fracastorius, "Syphilis, sive Morbus Gallicus."

The Medical Society of the county of New-York, has published the Inaugural Address of their distinguished President, Dr. Hosack. This work has received a brief but merited commendation, from the Editors of the N. York Daily Advertiser, but as the spirit of the address is such as should be felt in other cities than N. York, and we shall endeavour to favor our readers with a more particular account of it in our next paper.

PLEASURES OF DISSECTION.—In Dublin, Mr. Sheekleton, Demonstrator of Anatomy to the Royal College of Surgeons, whilst engaged in delivering a lecture, raising a knife at the time, slightly cut his finger, which was thus inoculated with virulent matter from the subject he was lecturing upon. Inflammation was suddenly brought on, and he expired in a few days.

LITHOTOMY.—A young surgeon of Paris, having for a long time suffered the most acute pains from Calculus, at length resolved to resort to the dangerous operation of cutting for it, and at the same time took the extraordinary resolution of being the operator himself. This difficult, perilous, and painful operation, he accomplished without any assistance. The patient is so well that he hopes soon to resume his usual occupations.

POISONING BY COPPER.—A young gentleman nearly lost his life, on Thursday last, by eating honey which had been standing in a copper vessel.—Two children were also greatly in danger in consequence of eating cranberry-sauce stewed in a copper bason. They vomited, occasionally, for eight hours, and were finally relieved by the administration of soda water.

DISEASES OF THE SEASON.—One or two cold and damp evenings, succeeding very hot days, the beginning of last week, produced great numbers of bowel-complaints, among the inhabitants of this city. Many are still quite sick in consequence of exposure at that time.—The chicken-pox and measles are prevailing here, but to no great extent, and all the cases are mild.

When martial law was in full force in Ireland, and the people were prohibited from having fire-arms in their possession, some mischievous varlet gave information that Mr. Scaulon, who was a respectable apothecary of Dublin, had three mortars in his house. A magistrate with a party of dragoons in his train, surrounded the house, and demanded in the king's name, that the mortars should be delivered to him. Mr. Scaulon immediately produced them; adding—that as they were useless without the pestles, these also were at his majesty's service.

A young licentiate at the College of Surgeons, London, wishing to procure the office of Surgeon to the Bristol Infirmary, waited on a grocer who happened to be a subscriber, and, making his bow, as is usual on such occasions, said—"Sir, I have taken the liberty of troubling you, to request that you would"—at which moment perceiving, by the stern brow of the grocer, that he was about to receive a plump refusal, with great promptitude, the applicant changed his tone, and, instead of soliciting his vote, ended his sentence with—"weigh me a penny-worth of plums!" and laid the money on the counter.

A paviour, to whom Dr. Radcliffe was indebted, after many fruitless attempts, caught him just getting out of his chariot at his own door, in Bloomsbury Square, and demanded the payment of his bill. "What, you rascal," said the Doctor, "do you pretend to be paid for such a piece of work? Why, you have spoiled my pavement, and then covered it over with earth to hide your bad work!" "Doctor, doctor," said the paviour, "mine is not the only bad work that the earth hides!" "You dog," said the Doctor, "you are a wit, you must be poor, come in,"—and he paid him his demand.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Ending July 30th, from the Health-Office Returns.

July 25.—Daniel Corbett; Edward Burk; Mary Mc Miklan, 6 mo.; Laura Hale, 34. 26.—Samuel White; Patty Rice; Sarah King; Mary Niles, 58; Anna Judd, 79. 27.—Bowen Crehore, 42. 28.—Duncan McLane. 29.—Eliza Hicks, 13; Francis V. Noyes, 20; Nathan I. B. Green, 10; Ann Maria Brown; ——— Appleton. 30.—William Whittaker; John Perry; Joseph Scallon, 6 mo; John Gustaf Forsberg; Josiah Stearns, 39; Mary H. Ferriter, 19.

Consumption, 5—Debility, 1—Spasms, 1—Drowned, 1—Stillborn, 1—Inflammation of the Brain.

Died, in Clinton, (Me.) Dr. Ezekiel Brown, æt. 80. In Belvidere, N. J. Dr. Samuel U. Fell, æt. 37.

To Teachers of Anatomy and Surgery.

THE Subscriber is engaged in making a Magnified Brain, from four to five feet round, in plaster and wax, minutely accurate, and naturally coloured, exhibiting the origin of the cerebral nerves. It revolves upon an axis, admirably calculated for demonstration to a large class, at a distance from the demonstrator.—Gentlemen desirous of securing one of these, are requested to forward their orders immediately. Price 40 dollars, without the arteries, and with them, 50 dollars.

School-street, Boston.

H. WILLIAMS.

Medical School in Boston.

THE Medical Lectures in Boston, will commence on the third WEDNESDAY in November.

Anatomy and Surgery, by Dr. WARREN. Chemistry, by Dr. GORHAM. Midwifery, and Medical Jurisprudence, by Dr. CHANNING. Materia Medica, by Dr. BIGELOW. Theory and Practice of Physic, by Dr. JACKSON.

The Massachusetts General Hospital, one of the most active and flourishing institutions in the United States, has received within a few years more than three hundred thousand dollars in private donations, in addition to its previous very liberal endowment from the State legislature. The number of surgical operations of magnitude performed in this hospital within the last two years and nine months, amounts to one hundred and twenty. Gentlemen attending the Medical Lectures, are admitted gratuitously to the surgical operations and clinical practice of this institution. Board can be obtained at from 2 dols. to 3 dols. per week.—A class of students exceeding one hundred, from different parts of the United States, attended the last course.

A pamphlet, containing a particular account of the Boston Medical School, and Hospital, is published for gratuitous distribution, and will be forwarded to any person, on his addressing a letter, post paid, to Mr. LEONARD HOLMES, of the Post Office, Boston.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER :

Published weekly, at two dollars a year. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1824.

No. 13.

OBSERVATIONS.

ON THE USE AND ABUSE OF THE MINERAL WATERS OF THE SARATOGA SPRINGS.

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer.

Without being very particular, we shall only say that the predominating ingredient in the water of the springs at Saratoga, is a pleasant impregnation of iron with the carbonic acid gas, or what is commonly called *fixed air*, with some particles of other matters, of not much consequence; for the analysis of mineral waters being one of the most difficult and deceptive processes in chemistry, we shall not divert the attention of our readers by recording the various results.

This mineral water is very agreeable to most people, impressing the tongue, fauces, and all the organs of taste, with a smart sensation like brisk bottled cider, or champaign wine, so as to make a man catch his breath, before he can drink out his glass. When received into the stomach, it gives to that susceptible organ not only a sensation of warmth, but an agreeable exhilaration, which in some very delicate females, unused to wine, has produced a slight intoxication. Although it excites a warmth in the stomach of an healthy person, it is shown by the thermometer, to be absolutely colder than the waters generally are in our ordinary wells. More need not be said of their chemical and sensible qualities:—our business is with their medicinal effects, which vary greatly in different people, according to their state of health; and in the same person at different periods of life.

Our ordinary practice is vague enough; but it is stability itself compared with the random practice of drinking mineral waters, whether impregnated as above described, or with sulphur, or with nothing as the pool at L—. And yet they are swallowed by people of every age, temperament, idiosyncrasy, habit and condition, suffering under disorders of every kind. Baths and mineral springs in England have long been considered as lumber-rooms of the faculty. When a rich patient has lost his appetite for every thing but strong wine and ardent spirits, his three *concoctions* deranged, and has gone through the routine of correctives, alteratives and tonics, until he is tired of his physician, and his physician of him, he commonly repairs to the great lumber-room of the profession, to make the best of himself. Should he grow worse—why—he did not go there soon enough;—if he gets better, the physician acquires credit by his advice. But the fact is, very few practitioners either do, or can give their patients proper directions how to use the waters, unless they are on the spot. The patient, left to his own judgment, is apt to pursue that course which is most agreeable to him.

The best of wine is to be found at some of our most frequented springs, and the worst of solid food. Many people, perhaps the majority who resort to the springs, go there, it would seem, not to drink water but wine; not to eat food dressed according to the excellent rules of Dr. Kitchener, but according to the convenience of the place. The simple article of bread is enough

to defeat all the good effects of the chalybeate waters, if instead of proper yeast they use the mineral waters as a leaven. Matters are doubtless better managed now than formerly. Twenty years ago, poultry was crowing on the fence at twelve o'clock, and on the spit at one. What medicine, whether prepared by art, or nature, can counteract the effect of heavy, dough-baked bread, and tough, stringy poultry that has never been allowed to become cold? Enough is said to show the great importance of a proper diet, without discriminating any.

In the use of the waters more than ordinary judgment is required, and yet very little is often exercised. An invalid arrives at the springs after a hot journey of several days, with, most commonly, a dry skin and constricted bowels, the frequent consequences of rapid travelling and disturbed sleep, together with a whitish tongue, and other signs of febricula. In this condition, he, or she drinks the stimulating, astringent, mineral water, which increases all these slight symptoms into something very like fever, with heat in the loins, a paucity of urine and hardness of the abdomen; to remove which, more water is swallowed, which confirms the constipation, and heats the glandular system, showing itself by a slight sore throat, with a sensation of tightness in the head, for which, instead of taking some cooling physic, as a dose of Epsom salts, or two or three drams of calcined magnesia, more mineral water is drank, which fails not to aggravate every symptom—when the patient is discouraged and quits the springs with a bad opinion of the waters. Hundreds experience what we have just described, with more or less severity. They ride home in this condition, feeling worse than when they left it. All this inconvenience would have been avoided, had the invalid rested a few days, and taken the just mentioned laxatives.—The important object is to empty the bowels gently by such physic as operates on the urinary passages as well as on the intestines. Then begin to drink the mineral water, from half a pint to a pint, two hours before breakfast, when it will probably pass off by urine, for *that is the criterion of its proper efficacy*.

If the mineral waters do not move the bowels or pass off by the kidneys, the stomach is oppressed by it, and the bowels are puffed up with either a sense of coldness, or else colic pains.—Sometimes these pains are very distressing.—They may however be removed by taking a few drops of oil of wormwood on sugar, and sometimes by warm gin and water, and by rubbing the bowels smartly with a flesh-brush. All this refers to cases of simple, and compound dyspepsia, where there is no organic lesion, where, generally speaking, such waters as those of Saratoga are prejudicial.

The stomach being an organ of the first importance, very rarely suffers an alteration in its organic structure; and when it does, such a spring as that of Saratoga is one of the last places the patient should resort to. To stimulate a very sensitive part, already inflamed by drinking a chalybeate water combined with carbonic acid

gas, would be miserable practice:—yet how often it is done in cases of chronic inflammation of some one or other of the chylopoetic viscera!

To preserve the prime organ of digestion from a fatal injury, there is a constant centrifugal force or influence exercised by it, which, when pushed to absolute fatigue, shows itself in the form of gout; the symptoms of which are more or less severe. The question now is—whether the waters, of which we have been speaking, be a proper composition for such a complaint? Experience must determine the question. I can only say that I have seen the most raging fit of the gout brought on by their use, where the disorder was of long standing and marked with inveteracy.

When the gout is playing (if we may so speak) between the stomach and the joints, or the head; and where the centripetal influence is balancing with the centrifugal, strong wine, or ardent spirits, either with or without opium—or oil of wormwood, or all of them, come in aid of the endangered stomach—when the waters would be worse than useless. But this subject requires a book instead of a page to do it justice.

The triumph of the Saratoga waters properly used, is seen in simple indigestion, or dyspepsia, connected with general debility, being one of those disorders called by physicians of the last century—*diseases of the weak and lax fibre* generally, and of the *weak and lax bowels* particularly; and which we, sheltering our ignorance under a name, have since called *nervous disorders*. Here our preparations of iron, and those prepared by Nature in the form of mineral waters, perform wonders: hence the emphatic language of Boerhaave—“*de mirabili virtute FERRI*.” But to this should be added a due attention to the quantity of our diet, and to exercise. A ride, with the cheerful scenery of a new and beautiful country, will, with these chalybeate remedies, give you health, vigour and vivacity, sound sleep and a natural appetite. But no article can act on your blood, juices and fibres, like the joint force of the muscles of your own body, acting and re-acting, as in moderate exercise, short of labour.

These ideas rise not up to the rank of rules; but are mere hints, thrown out for common sense to work with, in hopes that human prudence may rise to the dignity of animal instinct, in preserving our bodies from premature destruction. They are inserted in the weekly *Medical Journal* on the principle of

UT SPARGAM.

Cambridge, August, 1824.

ANALYSIS OF THE BALLSTOWN AND CONGRESS WATERS.

One gallon of Ballstown water contains

159	grs.	Muriate of Soda,
9	“	Carbonate do.
75	“	do. Lime
2	“	do. Magnesia
7	“	do. Iron
210 cubic inches of carbonic acid gas, commonly called fixed air.		

One gallon of Congress water contains
 371 grs. Muriate of Soda
 16 " Carbonate do.
 178 " do. Lime
 3 " do. Magnesia
 6 " do. Iron
 345 cubic inches of carbonic acid gas.

DISORDERS OF LITERARY MEN.—NO. VIII.

2d. BATHS.—To plunge frequently into clear rivers, and refresh their bodies in the cool waters of running streams, was, among the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans, more a *fashion*, than a custom adopted for purposes of cleanliness and health. This fashion at length terminated, among the Romans, in placing the *bath* among those luxuries, the number and excess of which, produced so much depravity in the people, and such destructive consequences to their empire. The foolish pageantry and misplaced splendor with which the bathing-rooms in Rome were decorated, in the time of Seneca, afforded a rich subject for his most pointed satire, and the folly of his cotemporaries in this respect, is strongly depicted by comparing their gaudy halls with the rude architecture and obscure situation of those houses in which Cato, Fabius Maximus, and Cornelius, were accustomed to bathe, and the extreme simplicity of the building where the great Scipio, after subduing the soil of his own fields, or the armies of the whole earth, thus refreshed his body, fatigued by the toils of agriculture or war.

At the present day the French are more in the habit of bathing than any other people. They bestow great expense and trouble on the construction and ornament of the buildings intended for this object, and the rich and curious architecture of some of these establishments at Paris, seldom fails to attract the attention of strangers, and to win the patronage of the Parisian multitude. The *Bain Vigier* for instance, which floats in the River Seine, near to Port-Neuf, contains one hundred and forty bathing tubs. It is two stories high, and the galleries in each story are ornamented with heavy columns and pilasters, and lighted by costly chandeliers. A large portico on the outside of the building is beautifully decorated with shrubs and flowers, and on the opposite bank of the river is a neat and agreeable walk shaded by rows of poplar trees and willows. The *Bains Chinois* on the boulevard Italien, and *Bains Turques* on that of the Temple, are of a still more singular and superb construction. In England the warm bath is much more in use than formerly, and in this country, where it has but recently been at all common, we are becoming more and more attached to its pleasures, and convinced of its utility. Few dwelling houses are now constructed by persons of ordinary wealth, without a bathing-room;—but in the United States, as in Great Britain, the public establishments are extremely small and inconvenient,—a circumstance which is the cause of more regret, the more we reflect on the importance of preserving the skin in a state of suppleness and health.

The skin and the stomach are the periphery and the centre of the human system, and on the free and healthy action of these depend the sanity and vigour of all the operations which are going on between them. So intimate too is their sympathy, that every thing which is applied to the one, produces a certain effect upon the other, and every thing which is admitted into the latter, discovers its virtues by some peculiar action on the former.

The *warm bath* then must produce other effects on the system than those immediately induced upon its surface. The influence of this remedy extends to the digestive functions, and to all the physical and intellectual faculties. It is very evident that so powerful an application to so extended and sensitive an organ, must be either extremely useful or very injurious; and, unless properly regulated, it is much more apt to do harm than good.

The agreeable sensation produced by a bath the temperature of which is higher than that of the body, has drawn people into a habit of taking it too hot and continuing it too long;—and it is this circumstance which has made that a luxury, which was designed as a remedy or preventive of disease. There is no constitution which does not suffer from the exhaustion which is occasioned by long continued immersion in a too hot bath, and hence has arisen the habit among the French and other people, of *replenishing the exhausted fluids* as they say, by taking a bowl of chocolate or hot broth immediately after dressing;—a pernicious habit, founded on a false notion. If then the most rugged frames are debilitated by this practice, how much more unable to bear up under its influence must be those men, whose daily habits tend to lessen the force of their physical faculties, and to preclude that free exercise which is necessary to fortify them against the quiet but sure ravages of debilitating causes!

As an imprudent use of the warm bath will be peculiarly injurious to literary men, so will its proper application be, among them, a more powerful means of invigorating the body, and giving freedom and clearness to the mind, than in any other class of individuals. It gives suppleness and a free action to limbs which had been cramped by a long continuance of one position—it equalizes and quickens the circulation which had become torpid by want of exercise, and which had acquired local determination by study—and it relieves the whole system of that perspirable matter which the brisk exercise of men in active business causes to be copiously excreted. Whoever is acquainted with the anatomy and physiology of the skin,* will understand also in what manner a warm bath refreshes the cerebral organs, invigorates their peculiar powers, removes every obstruction which had gathered by long continued meditation on the brain, and leaves the commerce of the faculties free and unobstructed.

MEDICAL LITERATURE OF CONNECTICUT.

If this State is rightly called the land of steady habits, the physicians of Connecticut may emphatically be termed *steady doctors*. Generally speaking, they are great practitioners, but little readers—rarely purchasing a medical book, if it is possible to do without it. Still, they are much more successful in business, as a body, than we might at first be led to suppose, considering what we have understood to be a fact, that, after having ended their pupilage, they rarely perplex themselves with the intricacies or reformations of science.—Those who have come before the public in the character of authors, have uniformly been considered as original in their views, independent in their opinions, and learned in experience; and although their works have sometimes met with the severest tornadoes of criticism, yet, like the sailor described by Mr. Whitfield, in an open boat on a high sea, with only one oar, when it is difficult to *row* they possess a shrewd faculty of *sculling*,—some how or other they get into the port of popular favor. Drs. Smith of New-Haven, Cogswell of Hart-

* See Med. Intelligencer, Vol. II. p. 42.

ford, Miner of Middletown, and Hubbard of Pomfret, are among the most distinguished physicians and surgeons in that State, who have established a reputation abroad for genuine talents and philosophical research—such as will not only render their names illustrious in the annals of medical literature, but will redound to the lasting honour of the State which has been the theatre of their perseverance and enterprise.

The Medical School connected with Yale College has done wonders for the regular practice of physic over a large tract of country. It was formerly said that tinware and patent pills were the only articles of manufacture in Connecticut; and although the first may still flourish, for ought we know, as a lawful tender, the latter are sold in much less quantity than formerly, and that wholly through the influence of this institution and the Medical Society connected with it.

The only periodical work exclusively devoted to the diffusion of medical science in this State, is, we believe, the Hartford Monthly Journal of Medicine, entirely made up of selections, and under the superintendence of Dr. Sumner, already known as the author of a popular volume on botany. Of this journal we spoke more at large in a late number of the Intelligencer.*—On the whole, we consider the medical literature of Connecticut about on a par with that of its neighboring States—neither drooping nor yet very flourishing, but holding a respectable standing that unquestionably entitles the physicians to be ranked with the most skillful, prudent and discreet of general practitioners.

REVIEW.

An Inaugural Address delivered before the Medical Society of the County of N. York, July 12th, 1824. By DAVID HOSACK, M. D. L. L. D. President of the Society. pp. 24.

We have seldom met with an address so little calculated to make a show, and so finely adapted to promote the best interests of the profession and of humanity,—or which is so evidently written with a view to be useful rather than to be eloquent, as this of Dr. Hosack. Sentiments highly honorable to the heart of the distinguished author, are expressed in a manner which does equal credit to his talents. He has not followed in the beaten track, and dealt in round assertions, general observations, and studied appeals; but looking at the objects of the Society to which he spoke, he has pointed out the best method of effecting them;—looking at the errors of the profession, he has plainly and distinctly stated the manner in which they may be most effectually corrected.

In his introductory remarks, the author speaks a language, the truth of which we could wish were more generally felt, and held a higher influence over the members of an elevated and liberal profession. Il-liberal invectives thrown out, either in public or private, by any one physician against another, have a direct tendency to injure both, and cast an odium on the faculty at large. Such invectives should not only be suppressed, but the feelings in which they originate should never be suffered to exist for a moment in the bosom of any one. If any difficulty or misunderstanding exist, it may be easily removed by a full and undisguised explanation between the parties concerned, and that sincere friendship and brotherly intercourse be thus preserved which exist among the clergy and the members of the bar, and which it pains us to add, does not exist among us.

* See Medical Intelligencer, vol. II, p. 19.

"Coalitions," says Dr. H. "except where they are directed to mutual improvement, or to the benefit of the community at large, we should remember are inconsistent with, and, indeed, are a violation of the solemn obligations the physician enters into when he receives the doctorate of medicine, or is admitted as a licentiate, and should be discountenanced by all. Let us then cherish the hope that hereafter the unworthy jealousies and hostile feelings which have been too often chargeable upon the medical character of our city, will find no place in this association; but be lost in that fellowship and good feeling which it is our interest to cultivate, and which I shall do all in my power to promote."

The Medical Society of New-York received an act of incorporation in 1806. From it has emanated the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the other institutions of a similar nature which exist in various parts of that state. Considering then that his auditors were members of the parent society—that they were established in a metropolis where the means of information are more ample and accessible than in the country, and that they were surrounded by an enlightened and rapidly increasing population, Dr. H. points out to them the peculiar duties and responsibilities which devolve on them; and in doing this he states the objects of the association to be—1st, to *regulate*, and 2d, to *improve* the practice of Physic and Surgery.

The first of these objects is to be effected by a strict adherence to a system of medical police which has been adopted by the physicians of that city, and received the approbation of foreign Journalists of the highest respectability.—The means recommended for improving the healing art, and extending the benefits to be derived from the Association, are such as merit the serious attention of us all, and we shall give the author's own words, since on this point, it is necessary, not only to notice, but to give the details of his sentiments.

"That we may preserve the honour and respectability of the profession, none should be permitted to practise it who have not been legally received, either as Doctors of Medicine or as Licentiates, agreeably to the provisions of the act of the State legislature. From many facts which have come to my knowledge, there is good reason to believe, that in this city and its vicinity, many ignorant pretenders, who commenced their career as acknowledged venders of quack medicines, are now prescribing for the sick, and are in the daily violation of the laws of the state. Connected with this subject, is the unwarrantable practice which has obtained among some of our apothecaries, and those of them too the least qualified, of prescribing for the sick who may apply at their shops for the purchase of drugs; and in some instances they have had even the arrogance to suppress the prescriptions of the physician, and to substitute their own combinations.

"It therefore becomes the duty of this Society, agreeably to the act passed in 1813, to interpose, and to arrest these impositions upon the community, and which are to be considered as among the greatest evils that can befall society. I therefore propose that a special committee be appointed, or that it be made the duty of the Censors, or of the Comitia Minora, to obtain and report to this Society, a census of all the physicians and surgeons and legally admitted practitioners of medicine in the city of New-York, classing them under the following heads:—1st.

Those who were established in practice prior to the act of incorporation passed in the year 1813. 2d.—Those who are graduates of this University, or of the Colleges or Universities of other states. 3d.—Those who have been licensed in N. York, or have been admitted to practice by producing licenses from other states. 4th.—Those who are practising under licenses or degrees obtained from foreign Universities and governments.

"Such census also becomes necessary, as it leads us to a knowledge of such persons as may be in practice, who, though well qualified, may have neglected to exhibit the evidence of their education and qualification, as directed by the act of the legislature and the by-laws of this Society."

It is not many weeks since we expressed our sentiments of that system of *TOLERATED QUACKERY*, which disgraces our age and country; and we are happy to find a gentleman of the rank and influence of Dr. Hosack, engaged in suppressing this vile and contemptible innovation on the rights of the people.

"In all ages," says our author, "our calling has been disgraced by the arts of the selfish and designing; and it is mortifying to observe in our own city continued and most flagrant evidences of the successful career of charlatanery. I earnestly hope you will omit no effort within the legitimate reach of your authority, to discountenance and suppress the whole tribe of *nostrum-venders* and *specific mongers*; and if, upon experience, you shall find the present system of regulations is inadequate, that it will be deemed meet to supersede it by obtaining from our legislature a code of greater efficacy and vigour.

"Many years since, the Medical Faculty of London expelled from their communion even the distinguished and learned Dr. James, who, disregarding the obligations due to his profession and to society, became the vender of a certain febrifuge powder. In like manner, the most learned Society in Europe erased from their lists the name of the celebrated Lower, who had been convicted of venal practices. And within a few months, as we are informed by Dr. Johnson,* the name of Dr. Thornton, once highly respectable, has been in a similar manner disgraced, by being struck from the list of the Royal College of Physicians, because of his association with an itinerant quack, or vender of American herbs in London. The spirited journalist goes on to remark, that, in his opinion, 'Dr. Thornton's conduct, in aiding the Whitlow imposition on public credulity, richly deserved this mark of disapprobation;' and adds his hope, 'that immoral as well as unprofessional conduct shall be often served in this way in future.' A similar course of decisive and vigorous conduct on our part, would probably be productive of similar beneficial results, in preserving the respectability of the healing art in the United States.

"Indeed, gentlemen, I cannot withhold the expression of the mortification I feel when I see the members of our profession, some, too, enjoying the most distinguished seats in our Universities, descending from their high estate, and lending the sanction of professional authority to any new syrup or panacea that cupidity and the arts of the impostor can combine to fill the purses of the venders."

The address is concluded by a specification of several

* See Medico-Chirurgical Review for Dec. 1833.

distinct propositions, to which the attention of the members should be particularly directed. They are these:—

1st.—That the Society hold its meetings monthly, and a portion of the time of each meeting be appropriated to the reading of communications on the different departments of our science. 2d.—That a committee be appointed to keep a regular series of meteorological observations—noticing all those circumstances connected with the weather and climate, that have an influence upon the character of our diseases. 3d.—That a committee be appointed to prepare a monthly report of the prevailing diseases. 4th.—That the nature and causes of the epidemic diseases which may make their appearance should be investigated, and the means recorded which may be found most successful in their prevention or cure. 5th.—That an addition be made to the number of lectures, so that a paper on some subject of medical science, an interesting case of disease, or other communication, may be presented at each meeting of the Society. 6th.—That a library devoted to medical and chirurgical science and its auxiliary branches, and commensurate with the existing funds of this institution, be commenced; and 7th.—that something be done to rescue from oblivion the names of those who have been most distinguished as practitioners in our city and state, or have been the benefactors to their profession and country, by the exertions they have displayed in fostering the first beginnings of our medical schools.

We have thus endeavoured to give our readers a brief view of the subjects proposed in the interesting pamphlet before us;—if the spirit which is evinced by its author can be imparted to the members of the Society over which he presides, the profession in New-York will stand nearer to the elevation its objects entitle it to occupy, than in any other part of the Union; and we cannot forbear expressing our most earnest hope, that this spirit may not only be diffused among the physicians of that flourishing and favoured metropolis, but that its progress may not be impeded by the walls of a city or the limits of a state.

INTELLIGENCE.

HUMAN LUNGS.—The structure and function of the human lungs has long been a chief study of Dr. Magendie, of Paris, and by very numerous dissections of this organ, in its ordinary, and also in its phthisically diseased state, he has ascertained, that the tissues or cellular coats of the lungs are almost entirely composed of the minute branchings of blood-vessels, of the pulmonary arteries and veins, anastomosing or connecting with each other; that the cells of the lungs diminish in number, but increase in size with considerable regularity, from childhood to old age, the increased size being greatest, where a cough has attended the individual; that on the whole, aged people consume much less oxygen, and consequently have less animal heat, and are less able to resist cold, than the young.

"Dr. Magendie has found, that the beginning of phthisis, or consumption, is owing to the small parieties of the pulmonary blood-vessels secreting a greyish yellow matter, in one or more of the cells of the lungs;—this, in some cases, is moveable, and the patient coughs it up, and recovers; but much too frequently it increases, adheres to the small vessels, gradually obliterates

them, and the whole lobe at length becomes tuberculous, or formed of this greyish yellow matter. Considering thus the commencement of consumption as only an alteration in the habitual secretions of the vascular tissue of the lungs, Dr. M. employs sedatives, and particularly the hydro-cyanic acid, in the two first stages of the disease, with the happiest effect.

MEDICAL PRIZE.—The Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland have offered a premium of one hundred dollars in cash, or a gold medal, (at the option of the successful candidate) for the best essay "on the pathology and treatment of Cholera Infantum."—Nathaniel Potter, A. Alexander, Thos. E. Bond, Ezra Gillingham, and Patrick Macaulay, have been appointed to award the premium at the next meeting of the faculty. Candidates for the prize will cause their dissertations to be sent to either of them, at Baltimore, (postage paid) on or before the first day of May, 1825; each dissertation to be accompanied by a sealed letter, superscribed with a motto corresponding with that prefixed to the essay. None of the letters except that on which the motto of the successful essay shall be affixed, will be opened; the remaining essays will be disposed of according to the direction of the owners.

BROWN UNIVERSITY.—The library of Brown University has received from two young gentlemen *alumni*, who are now in Europe, a respectable donation of French books, among which are valuable works on Natural History, and on Anatomy and Surgery. The anatomical plates of Cloquet, consisting of 240 engravings of folio size, are executed in a very superior style. These gentlemen have also forwarded valuable additions to the chemical and philosophical apparatus, already belonging to the University.

MEDICAL DEGREES.—At the late Commencement of the University of Transylvania, Ken. forty-six gentlemen were admitted to the degree of M. D.

EYE INFIRMARY.—Dr. Usher Parsons, Professor of Surgery in Brown University, has recently established an infirmary, in Providence, for diseases of the eye.

NEW WORK.—J. F. Daniel Lobstein, M. D. of Philadelphia, proposes to publish by subscription, a book entitled, "Experiments and Observations on the extraordinary effects of Phosphorus, in the treatment of different Diseases."—As we have paid eighteen and a half cents for Dr. Lobstein's circular, we cannot help expressing our surprise that gentlemen will ever forward editors any thing which is *not post-paid*.

THE BOSTON MED. INTELLIGENCER, vol. 1st, is for sale at this office. Price dol. 2,50, half bound.—Subscribers may also be furnished with the back numbers of the second volume.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Ending August 6th, from the Health-Office Returns.

August 1.—John Collins, 77. 2.—Jane Symmes; Elizabeth Bligh; Mark Blunt; Roswell Pomeroy, 19; O'hello W. Holden, 6 weeks; Joseph I. Peters, 32. 3.—Betsey Bowns; John Stutson, 24; Laben Whitcomb, 45; Sarah J. Adams, 21; ——— Greenleaf; ——— Hewes, 3 weeks. 4.—Mercy Low; Hannah Piemont, 85; Bethsheba Marshall, 67; Margaret Cazeau, 50; Mary Dean, 68. 5.—Catharine Webber, 43. 6.—Ann F. Scott, 20 mo.; John Bennet; Joseph Perry, 18 mo.: ——— Broomfield; ——— Robinson; Mary Hobart, 27: ——— Hayward, 8 days; Margaret Mahony, 9; Lewis Farnham, 26; A. Lawrence, 4 mo.

Gout, 1—Drowned, 1—Accidental, 2—Infantile, 1—Delirium *Vigilens Vel Tremens*, 1—Typhus, 1—Stillborn, 2—Spasms, 2—Old age, 1—Debility, 1—Canker, 1—Consumption, 2—Inflammation of the Bowels, 2—Typho Bilius Fever, 1—Inflammation of the Brain, 1—Lung-Fever, 1.

Died in Virginia, Dr. Thomas W. Jones, killed by being thrown from his gig.—In England, Thomas Chevalier, Esq. F. R. S. F. S. A. F. L. S. F. H. S. Sur-

geon Extraordinary to the King, and Professor of Anat. and Surgery to the Royal College of Surg. in London.

Berkshire Medical Institution, Connected with Williams College.

THE Annual Course of Medical Lectures in this Institution will commence on the second Wednesday of September, and continue fifteen weeks.—JOHN P. BATCHELDER, M. D. on Surgery, Anat. and Physiol. as subservient to the Theory and Practice of Medicine and Surgery. JEROME V. C. SMITH, M. D. on General Anatomy and Physiology. HENRY H. CHILDS, M. D. on Theory and Practice of Medicine. JOHN DELEMMATTER, M. D. on Mat. Med. Pharmacy and Obstetrics. Prof. DEWEY on Chymistry, Botany. Mineralogy, Nat. and Experimental Philosophy. STEPHEN W. WILLIAMS, M. D. on Medical Jurisprudence.

Since the last season, the lecture rooms have been enlarged, and the apartments for students thoroughly repaired. The commons-house is a very convenient and elegant building, in which the trustees have made arrangements for boarding, washing and lodging, for the reasonable sum of dol. 1,75 per week, including rent. Fees for all the lectures 40 dollars. A perpetual ticket for admission to the lectures on Anatomy, 25 dollars. Tuition for a resident student of the Institution, exclusive of the lectures, for one year, 50 dollars. Tickets for admission to the lectures on Chymistry, Botany, Mineralogy and Experimental Philosophy, 6 dols. Gentlemen who have received the degree of Doctor of Medicine, or those who have attended two full courses of lectures at any incorporated School, and Fellows of the Massachusetts Med. Society, are admitted gratuitously. The lectures upon Anatomy are given every morning at 10 o'clock, throughout the whole term, and while the demonstrations in Osteology continue, the students will be furnished with every thing necessary to facilitate their anatomical pursuits in their own rooms. The museum of the Institution, to which the students have free access, is constituted of a great variety of superior wax models, exhibiting most of the minute parts of the human body, valued at several thousand dollars; arterial preparations and various rare specimens of morbid anatomy, wet preparations, &c. which have been selected with great care and expense, besides nearly 2000 valuable specimens in mineralogy.

Degrees are conferred at the close of the lecture term, and at the annual commencement of Williams College. The examination of candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine, is conducted by the Faculty of the Institution, composed of all the Professors, and two delegates from the State Med. Society. As these examinations are private and confidential, if the person offering himself should be unsuccessful, it will never be known that he has been examined; on the contrary, if successful, he will receive a certificate of his qualification from the Dean of the Faculty, directed to the President and Trustees of Williams College, for which he is required to pay 12 dollars. Any gentleman who has attended one course of lectures in any regularly established medical school, and a second course in this Institution, will be admitted to an examination for a degree.—For the purpose of giving the students every opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of the collateral branches of medical science, a Lyceum of Natural History has been established, in connection with the Institution, which holds its meetings once a week, during the lecture-term.

Pittsfield, Mass. Aug. 1824.

3w.

New-Hampshire Medical School.

THE Medical Institution of the State of New-Hampshire has been established at Hanover, in connection with Dartmouth College. The Medical College is a brick edifice three stories high, containing two large Lecture Halls, a Chymical Laboratory with a full apparatus and a large Cabinet of Minerals, an extensive and valuable museum of Anatomy, a Medical Library of a few hundred volumes, which is annually increasing, and several rooms for students.

The annual course of Lectures commences two weeks after the College Commencement, this year, (or Thursday, the 2d of September,) and continues fourteen weeks. Four lectures are delivered daily, and frequently five and even six, on the following branches,

viz:—Anatomy, Surgery and Obstetrics, by R. D. MUSSEY, M. D. Theory and Practice of Physic, Physiol. and Mat. Med. by D. OLIVER, M. D. Chymistry, Pharmacy and Legal Medicine, by J. F. DANA, Esq.—Fees for all the courses 50 dollars. Boarding may be obtained for dol. 1,25. The students are closely questioned at every lecture on the subject of the preceding lecture; the class is examined every week by each professor on the subject treated of in the lectures of the preceding week.

By the Prof. of Anatomy an important improvement has been made in the mode of teaching myology, one of the most laborious and difficult branches of the whole study of Anatomy. Sets of bones are painted with bright and vivid colours upon a white ground, exhibiting the origin and insertion of each muscle, together with the extent of its bony attachments; in addition to these a complete set of dried muscular preparations exhibit the various muscles painted with colours corresponding with those on the bones. These aids to the memory speak so strongly to the eye, as, in the opinion of those students who have made use of them, to diminish, by one half, the labour of studying myology.

An INFIRMARY has been commenced at Hanover by the medical Professors; boarding places have been engaged for patients who may need surgical operations, and for a small number labouring under chronic diseases. Surgical attendance is afforded *gratis*, and the medical class have the privilege of witnessing the operations.—From an account recently published of the resources of this Institution, it appears that at that place and in its neighbourhood, 138 operations have been performed within 30 months ending in June, among these, a successful operation for the stone on a corpulent patient aged 80 years, a successful case of tying the carotid artery, and several operations for strangulated hernia, and for removing large and important tumours from the neck, &c. &c. &c.

Hanover, July 30th, 1824.

3w.

Medical School in Boston.

THE Medical Lectures in Boston, will commence on the third WEDNESDAY in November.

Anatomy and Surgery, by Dr. WARREN. Chemistry, by Dr. GORHAM. Midwifery, and Medical Jurisprudence, by Dr. CHANNING. Materia Medica, by Dr. BIGELOW. Theory and Practice of Physic, by Dr. JACKSON.

The Massachusetts General Hospital, one of the most active and flourishing institutions in the United States, has received within a few years more than *three hundred thousand dollars* in private donations, in addition to its previous very liberal endowment from the State legislature. The number of surgical operations of magnitude performed in this hospital within the last two years and nine months, amounts to *one hundred and twenty*. Gentlemen attending the Medical Lectures, are admitted *gratuitously* to the surgical operations and clinical practice of this institution. Board can be obtained at from 2 dols. to 3 dols. per week.—A class of students exceeding one hundred, from different parts of the United States, attended the last course.

A pamphlet, containing a particular account of the Boston Medical School, and Hospital, is published for gratuitous distribution, and will be forwarded to any person, on his addressing a letter, post paid, to Mr. LEONARD HOLMES, of the Post Office, Boston.

July 6.

6w.

To Teachers of Anatomy and Surgery.

THE Subscriber is engaged in making a Magnified Brain, from four to five feet round, in plaster and wax, minutely accurate, and naturally coloured, exhibiting the origin of the *cerebral nerves*. It revolves upon an axis, admirably calculated for demonstration to a large class, at a distance from the demonstrator.—Gentlemen desirous of securing one of these, are requested to forward their orders immediately. Price 40 dollars, without the arteries, and with them, 50 dollars.

School-street, Boston.

H. WILLIAMS.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER :

Published weekly, at two dollars a year. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN CORTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1824.

No. 14.

OBSERVATIONS.

ENDEMIAL DISEASES OF AFRICA.

The following remarks are from the pen of a well known traveller who penetrated the heart of Africa for the purpose of discovering the source of the Nile. After speaking of several species of Fever which are common in the low countries of Arakia, the intermediate island of Masuah, and all Abyssinia, he thus proceeds:

The next disease, which we may say is endemic in the low countries before mentioned, is called *hanzeer*, the *Hogs*, or *Swine*, and is a swelling of the glands of the throat, and under the arms. This the ignorant inhabitants endeavour to bring to a suppuration, but in vain; they then open them in several places; a sore and running follows, and a disease very much resembling what is called in Europe the Evil.

The next, though not a dangerous complaint, has a very terrible appearance. Small tubercles or swellings appear all over the body, but thickest in the thighs, arms, and legs. These swellings go and come for weeks together without pain; though the legs often swell to a monstrous size as in the dropsy. Sometimes the patients have ulcers in their noses and mouths, not unlike those which are one of the malignant consequences of the venereal disease. The small swellings or eruptions, when squeezed, very often yield blood; in other respects the patient is generally in good health, saving the pain the ulcers give him, and the still greater uneasiness of mind which he suffers from the spoiling of the smoothness of his skin; for all the nations in Africa within the tropics, are wonderfully affected at the smallest eruption or roughness of the skin. A black of Senaar will hide himself in the house till dark, and is not to be seen by his friends, if he should have two or three pimples on any part of his body. Nor is there any remedy, however violent, that they will not fly to for immediate relief. Scars and wounds are no blemishes; and I have seen them, for three or four pimples on their bracelet arm, suffer the application of a red-hot iron with great resolution and constancy.

These two last diseases yielded, the first slowly, and sometimes imperfectly, to mercurials; and sublimate has by no means in these climates the quick and decisive effects it has in Europe. The second is completely and speedily cured by antimonials.

The next complaint I shall mention, as common in these countries, is called *Farenteit*, a corruption of an Arabic word, which signifies the worm of Pharaoh; all bad things being by the Arabs attributed to these poor kings, who seem to be looked upon by posterity as the evil genii of the country which they once governed.—This extraordinary animal only afflicts those who are in the constant habit of drinking stagnant water, whether drawn out from wells, as in the kingdom of Senaar, or found by digging in the sand, where it is making its way to its proper level, the sea, after falling down the side of the mountains after the tropical rains. This plague appears indiscriminately in every part of the body,

but oftenest in the legs and arms. I never saw it in the face or head; but, far from affecting the fleshy parts of the body, it generally comes out where the bone has least flesh upon it.

Upon looking at this worm, on its first appearance, a small black head is extremely visible, with a hooked beak of a whitish colour. Its body is seemingly of a white silky texture, very like a small tendon bared and perfectly cleaned. After its appearance, the natives of these countries, who are used to it, seize it gently by the hand, and wrap it round a thin piece of silk or small bird's feather. Every day, or several times a day, they try to wind it up upon the quill as far as it comes readily; and, upon the smallest resistance, they give over for fear of breaking it. I have seen five feet, or something more of this extraordinary animal, wound out with invincible patience in the course of three weeks. No inflammation then remained, and scarcely any redness round the edges of the aperture, only a small quantity of lymph appeared in the hole or puncture, which scarcely issued out upon pressing. In three days it was commonly well, and left no scar or dimple implying loss of substance.

I myself experienced this complaint. I was reading upon a sofa at Cairo, a few days after my return from Upper Egypt, when I felt in the fore part of my leg, upon the bone, about seven inches below the centre of my knee-pan, an itching resembling what follows the bite of a muscheto. Upon scratching, a small tumour appeared very much like a moscheto-bite. The itching returned in about an hour afterwards; and, being more intent upon my reading than my leg, I scratched it till the blood came. I soon after observed something like a black spot, which had already risen considerably above the surface of the skin. All medicine proved useless; and the disease not being known at Cairo, there was nothing for it but to have recourse to the only received manner of treating it in this country.—About three inches of the worm was winded out upon a piece of raw silk in the first week, without pain or fever: but it was broken afterwards through the carelessness and rashness of the surgeon when changing a poultice, on board the ship in which I returned to France: a violent inflammation followed; the leg swelled so as scarce to leave the appearance of knee or ankle; the skin, red and distended, seemed glazed like a mirror. The wound was now healed, and discharged nothing; and there was every appearance of mortification coming on. The great care and attention procured me in the lazaretto of Marseilles, by a nation always foremost in acts of humanity to strangers, and the attention and skill of the surgeon, recovered me from this troublesome complaint.—Fifty-two days had elapsed since it first begun; thirty-five of which were spent in the greatest agony. It supplicated at last; and, by enlarging the orifice, a good quantity of matter was discharged. I had made constant use of bark, both in fomentations and inwardly; but I did not recover the strength of my leg entirely, till nearly a year after, by using the baths of Porretta, the property of my friend Count Ranuzzi,

in the mountains above Bologna, which I recommend, for their efficacy, to all those who have wounds, as I do to him to have better accommodations, greater abundance of, and less imposition in, the necessities of life than when I was there. It is but a few hours' journey over the mountains to Pistoia.

The last I shall mention of these endemic diseases, and the most terrible of all others that can fall to the lot of man, is the Elephantiasis, which some have chosen to call the Leprosy, or *Lepra Arabum*; though in its appearance, and in all its circumstances and stages, it no more resembles the leprosy of Palestine, than it does the gout or dropsy. I never saw the beginning of this disease. During the course of it, the face is often healthy to appearance; the eyes vivid and sparkling: those affected have sometimes a kind of dryness upon the skin of their backs, which, upon scratching, I have seen leave a mealiness, or whiteness—the only circumstance, to the best of my recollection, in which it resembled the leprosy, but it has no scaliness. The hair, too, is of its natural colour; not white, yellowish, or thin, as in the leprosy, but so far from it that, though the Abyssinians have very rarely hair upon their chin, I have seen people, apparently in the last stage of the elephantiasis, with a very good beard of its natural colour.

The appetite is generally good during this disease, nor does any change of regimen affect the complaint. The pulse is only subject to the same variations as in those who have no declared nor predominant illness; they have a constant thirst, as the lymph, which continually oozes from their wounds, probably demands to be replaced. It is averred by the Abyssinians that it is not infectious. I have seen the wives of those who were in a very inveterate stage of this illness, who had borne them several children, who were yet perfectly free and sound from any contagion. Nay, I do not remember to have seen children visibly infected with this disease at all; though, I must own, none of them had the appearance of health. It is said this disease, though surely born with the infant, does not become visible till the approach to manhood, and sometimes it is said to pass by a whole generation.

The chief seat of this disease is from the bending of the knee, downwards to the ankle; the leg is swelled to a great degree, becoming of one size from bottom to top, and gathering into circular wrinkles, like small hoops or plaits; between every one of which there is an opening that separates it all round from the one above, and which is all raw flesh, or perfectly excoriated. From between these circular divisions, a great quantity of lymph constantly oozes. The swelling of the leg reaches over the foot, so as to leave about an inch or little more of it seen. It should seem that the black colour of the skin, the thickness of the leg, and its shapeless form, and the rough tubercles, or excrescences, very like those seen upon the elephant, give the name to this disease, and form a striking resemblance between the distempered legs of this unfortunate individual of the human species, and those of the

noble quadruped the elephant, when in full vigor. An infirmity, to which the Abyssinians are subject, of much more consequence to the community than elephantiasis, I mean lying, makes it impossible to form, from their relations, any accurate account of symptoms that might lead the learned to discover the cause of this extraordinary distemper, and thence suggest some rational method to cure or diminish it.

DISORDERS OF LITERARY MEN.—NO. IX.

On the use of the *cold bath*, we shall say little, since for those to whom these numbers are dedicated, it can seldom be of any advantage. That which is of a higher temperature is better suited to their necessities, and although there may be some who have been benefited by a shower-bath, or by plunging occasionally into their Tiber or Ilissus, yet those few will seldom be found among the most sedentary and studious. On the other hand, it is by frequent tepid ablution, that both in the heat of summer and the coldest of winters, the habitual student will be refreshed and invigorated.—Bruce, in his account of his travels in Africa, remarks that when burning beneath the scorching rays of that desert country, and almost fainting with weakness from continual perspiration, a warm bath immediately restored him to strength, as upon first rising in the morning; and one of our particular friends, who has recently experienced all the rigors of a Canadian winter, assures us that in the coldest weather, a warm bath was his greatest luxury.

In order that this healthful luxury may be managed in the manner best suited to the habits of our literary friends, we beg leave to offer them the following rules.

1st. Frequency. The bath should be taken by sedentary men about once a week in winter, and once a fortnight in the summer season.

2d. Temperature. In the coldest weather the temperature of the bath should not be below 90 degrees, and in the hottest, not higher than 97 1-2—which is the natural temperature of the human body. Hippocrates recommended a bath of a temperature a little below that of the body, which in the highest and lowest latitudes, in the heat of summer and the depths of winter, is always and invariably the same. Notwithstanding these facts, we are certain that the state of the external air has a degree of influence on our ability to bear a hot bath, and the temperature of the weather and the bath should increase together in a regular arithmetical progression, the terms of which and the excesses should be as follows.

When the	0	} the bath should be at	90
weather is at	30		92
	60		94
	90		96

From these two rules individuals should vary a little according to their constitutions. Those who are corpulent, or who have been troubled with any cutaneous complaint or scrofulous affection, require a warmer and more frequent bath than those whose habit is more spare, and whose blood is of greater purity.

3d. Time. The best time for taking a warm bath is in the latter part of the forenoon, or late in the evening; it should never be taken when the stomach is full of aliment, nor within at least three hours after the most temperate meal.

4th. Combinations. After having been immersed about ten minutes, the whole body should be well rubbed with a hard brush or coarse crash, and permitted to remain in the bath ten minutes longer; the skin should now be wiped dry, and rubbed with crash till

the whole surface is red and glowing. With ordinary caution, there will be little danger of taking cold after such management, and all the benefits of the warm bath will be obtained, and all its evils avoided. It is the habit of many to use soap—eau-de-cologne, &c. in combination with the water, but friction unites all their advantages and many others, without altering the nature or properties of the element;—it cleanses by mechanical operation, and whilst the warmth of the bath destroys that determination of the blood to the brain which intense study so generally produces, friction excites to more vigorous action the nervous excretories which are the seat of cerebral excretion;—thus do they both tend immediately to relieve the brain, to encourage its development, and to enliven its peculiar operations, as well as to strengthen the powers of the understanding in a secondary manner, by increasing the strength and vigour of the body.

MEDICAL LECTURES.

As the season for public lectures is now advancing, we are induced to make a few observations on the local facilities for acquiring medical knowledge at an Institution in the western part of Massachusetts, and of course wish to direct our discourse to the medical students who are yet undetermined what school to visit,—of the number which are now in operation. The school to which we allude, is the *Berkshire Medical Institution*, which from a small beginning, shackled by local prejudices, without funds and almost without patronage, has become distinguished for the enterprise of its founders, the value of its course of instruction, and its kindness and liberality towards the most indigent scholars who from time to time have resorted thither for information. Since its adoption by the State, it has enlarged the means of collecting the most rare and valuable articles to which the curiosity of the student is invariably directed, if ardently engaged in attaining that kind of knowledge which alone can make him a valuable member of society,—and since, by an act of the General Court, a degree from this Institution entitles its possessor to all the privileges of one from Harvard University, no efforts have been wanting on the part of those more intimately interested, to meet the expectation of the public. There is no school in New-England in which the price of a course of lectures is so low, and in which so many branches are taught, as in this; and we should suppose that these two circumstances would be sufficient to insure an overflowing class. Board, washing, room-rent, tuition, &c. together, scarcely amount to the price of tickets at any other place—which with the student whose resources are limited, must have incalculable weight. As the trustees have been wholly governed by views of general accommodation, they have taken every possible measure to fix the expenses of the pupils at a rate that scarcely defrays the contingent expenses of so large a school, and as they consider economy as one of the first steps to eminence, in a profession, the younger branches of which are generally poor, they have rendered it impossible for the rich to be profligate, or the indigent to be in need, whilst connected with that Institution. Nothing but *study* is in fashion at that Seminary; hence, as there are six lecturers, who embrace in their teachings all the different departments of medical science, if any one goes away without being intellectually benefited, it must be imputed wholly to himself, and not to the government.

To those who are particularly interested in chemistry, botany, mineralogy, natural and experimental philosophy, the lectures of Prof. Dewey, of Williams College,

a gentleman whose attainments in general science have given him a rank among the literati of this country, that is not circumscribed by the shores of the Atlantic, will afford the most permanent satisfaction. As a botanist and a practical philosopher, Professor Dewey has few equals, and we are certain that we never listened with more enthusiasm than to his discourses.

The library, the anatomical museum, inferior to none in New-England in point of variety or value, the mineralogical cabinet, the bureau of natural history, and the convenience of the buildings, together with the delightful scenery of the surrounding country, and excellent society of the flourishing town where the Institution is fortunately established, renders it one of the most desirable resorts for the medical student within the circle of the United States.

With such prospects, and so many combined advantages, we feel a hope that the Berkshire Institution will number in its theatre, the ensuing winter, a class of students from the adjacent States, which will make the legislature proud to nourish its growth, and which will act as a stimulus to the several Professors to be unsparing in those noble labours which have for their object the welfare and happiness of their fellow-beings.

We purpose next week to speak of other medical schools, and to point out their claims upon the public.

MEDICAL LITERATURE IN VERMONT.

Small as this State appears in its geographical dimensions, it is certainly no less prolific in doctors than in mountains. Not that we would imply any analogy between its physicians and its mountains—on the contrary, in every other respect than their number, they have no qualities in common. Within the last seven years, there have been greater and worse directed efforts for the propagation of medical science in Vermont, than in any other section of the United States;—but their zeal has fairly overdone the business, and stocked the market so completely with physicians, that if the work is persisted in much longer, we fear they will be under the necessity of resorting to the measure pursued during the French war, by the garrison at Ticonderoga. It would seem that a few ambitious individuals were determined to rear a Leyden in the west; but unless a radical change is effected in the manner of starting pupils into the world, the lofty summits of the Green Mountains, instead of Galens and Cullens, will be still found to be luxuriant in nothing but their native maples.

Formerly, quackery in all its impudence of character, flourished here in pristine vigour; but the regulations of the State Medical Society, in conjunction with frequent legislative aid, have diminished the brigade of charlatans that once trampled upon the people; and the regular practice of medicine, founded on a scientific basis, is beginning to assume the influence to which it is always entitled in a community of beings endowed with eyes, ears and intellects. We cannot however but be astonished at the injudicious number of medical students annually announced in the catalogues of their schools—a number which is continually increasing, although it already exceeds that in Massachusetts or Connecticut, where the ratio of population is in the proportion of three to one. In fact, a friend recently told us that he saw two physicians in Vermont riding on one horse—and we should not wonder if, 5 or 6 years hence, we were to hear of some of the poor animals being laden with three or four. Strangers, (and indeed not strangers only) are perfectly astonished at the number of practitioners in the city of Boston,—and it is no

uncommon question—can so many *live* by their profession? The fact is, they do not, for many of them only *starve* by their profession. So must it be in Vermont, if American *Aberdeens* continue to pour out their yearly platoons of half-fledged graduates.

If we are rightly informed, it has been said that it was an easy thing to get a degree in Vermont; which if true, has done an essential injury to science, that will require the strongest efforts of the present teachers at Castleton and Burlington, whom we are happy to acknowledge as gentlemen of worth and genuine professional abilities, to efface. The mere circumstance of having a medical degree, gives no additional currency to the possessor; but *his* acquirements and industry give a weight of character and a certain dignity to the seminary where he was educated. There seems to have been a mistaken notion in the minds of the conservators of the Castleton School, that having *many students* is the great distinguishing mark of a celebrated institution; but the public are the judges of the qualifications of those who are recommended to take charge of their health,—and every numskull that emanates with his sky-rocket honours, will be a dead weight upon the prosperity of a School, that will sink it in public estimation with a most woeful preponderance.

From every thing we have learnt of the history of the Castleton Medical School, it has thus far been conducted on bad principles; and so long as animosities, petty feuds and belligerent dispositions are manifested in the members of the immediate government, so long will the school have a bad reputation abroad. In the first place, the location is not a happy one; at Middlebury, where it should have been, the soil would have been more propitious—the society there is more refined and literary, and it would moreover have contributed much to the influence of that languishing, but eminently respectable college, and that would have contributed to the respectability of the School of Medicine. In medicine, as in every thing else, when things are once done wrong, it is exceedingly difficult to get them right again; the plain truth is, that one Medical School in Vermont is enough, and that one should be founded on liberal principles, commensurate with the means of those who are likely to resort to it, and should be sparing of its honours, so that the idea of getting a degree of *Doctor of Medicine*, should be attended with a little more of the *thrill* on the part of the student than it now is. When the Windsor county Medical Society passed a resolve, the last season, that the Castleton and Burlington Schools of Medicine ought to be united into one, it had in view the best interests of all concerned;—but self-interest, in every age of the world, has invariably been at war with public good.—With regard to the Burlington School, located at the *north pole* of the State, we will only remark that to seek it, is rather too much of an expedition, and if it were united with the other school, and fixed at Middlebury, under the auspices of Middlebury College, its glory would have shone with increasing splendor. Its number of pupils has always been small, and from a variety of concomitant circumstances, we think the case will not at present be otherwise. The reputation of Professors Mussey, Dana and Oliver, of the Medical Institution connected with Dartmouth College, N. H. is so well established, and their characters so well appreciated at a distance from Hanover, that they cannot fail of drawing numbers of students from the northern parts of Vermont every lecture season,—and this circumstance cannot but operate against the success of the Burlington Seminary.

As to the diffusible medical literature of the State, it is either smothered like the molten lava of a volcano, to be exploded at some remote period, or else an universal apathy and disregard to the vital interests of the profession, pervades the most eminent, as well as those who have no anxieties beyond a *shilling a mile*.

REPORTS.

CASE OF SPLENITIS.

Communicated for the *Boston Medical Intelligencer*,
By A. BRIGHAM, M. D. of Enfield, Mass.

Notwithstanding the investigations and the many experiments made within a few years to determine the office of the spleen, it seems that nothing, respecting its use, is yet known with certainty.

The history of the opinions relating to the functions of the spleen would require volumes; for, from the earliest period of our science, it has been the subject of much debate, and of many absurd and fanciful hypotheses; and these, frequently, of the most opposite kind. Erasistratus, not satisfied with any that had been presented, early asserted that the spleen was of no use at all; while others exalted it to the high office of the residence of the soul. Hippocrates and Aristotle considered it as subservient to the stomach; others believed that it was an assistant to the liver. Galen advanced a theory which was for a long time popular, that the spleen was the receptacle of the *atra bilis*, or melancholy, and that “moping here doth Hypochondria sit;” while others conceived it to be the seat of “Laughter holding both his sides.”—The doctrines of the moderns, on this subject, if less absurd, have contributed but little to our knowledge of the action and use of this viscus. Hewson supposed it to be a manufactory for the red globules of the blood; and Haighton, that it contributed to digestion, by increasing the supply of the gastric and pancreatic juices. Dr. Rush maintained the theory, that the spleen served as a “temporary reservoir, to receive for a while several pounds of blood,” a provision to defend the tender and vital parts of the body from the effects of severe exercise, intemperance, passions of the mind, or any other causes that occasionally increase the force of the circulation. This theory has lately been brought forward as an original one, by Mr. Hodgson, in the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, without any mention of Dr. Rush, and it has now many supporters; others still consider the spleen as auxiliary to the functions of the liver; while by many of the most respectable physiologists of the present day, and those who have given the greatest attention to the minute structure of the spleen, this organ is considered to be connected with the absorbent system,—secreting a fluid, which, being absorbed and carried into the thoracic duct, causes the chyle to resemble the mass of blood. Some experiments have been made to justify these conclusions; and from the attention now paid to the subject, and from the spirit with which the investigation is conducted, it is hoped that it will not long remain in so great obscurity.

As disease of the spleen is comparatively rare, and the symptoms of it very obscure, the following case is thought worthy of publication.

Mr. L. C. of Berkshire county, a labouring, robust man, æt. 40, in the habit of frequent intoxication, was attacked, April 1st, 1821, with

symptoms of catarrhal fever, great cough, and some expectoration. In a week from this, he complained of pain in the left side, under the false ribs, and extending to the scrobiculus cordis; the pain was constant, and prevented him from lying on the side affected. The remedies employed in the early stage of his disease, I am not able to describe minutely; but the general course was inert, as he was attended by a physician who prescribed only the vegetable remedies of the neighborhood; he was bled however, for the pain in his side, and took occasionally laxatives. But the pain continued unabated, and soon after its commencement, was accompanied with severe agues, similar to those in intermittent fever, but irregular, the intermission continuing for several days, at one time for two weeks. His pulse during most of his disease was but little excited, and his tongue smooth and red, more particularly so in the latter part of his sickness, with an increase of the cough and expectoration. After a continuance of his complaint nearly two months, his dejections contained a considerable quantity of matter resembling pus; from this time the rigors became more frequent and severe, and continued for a longer time. He was now attended by another physician, who prescribed bark, opium, arsenic, and various tonics and stimulants, which at first appeared to mitigate the severity of the chills; but these medicines soon lost all control over the rigors, which again increased in severity; his strength failed, and delirium, which had prevailed at times thro' his whole sickness, became constant for ten days previous to his death, which occurred July 7th, three months from the attack of the disease.

DISSECTION.—Twenty-four hours after death, on opening the thorax, the *lungs* exhibited nearly a healthy appearance, rather paler than usual, with some adhesion of the right lobe, apparently of long continuance; nearly a $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of a watery fluid was found in the chest.—In the abdomen, the *omentum*, at its lower part, was of a dark colour, as if gangrenous, but it was firm and healthy; the fat of it only appeared to be stained, which gave it the dark coloured appearance. The *liver* was rather larger than usual, weighing between six and seven pounds, but of a healthy appearance. The *stomach* and greater part of the *intestines* were in a sound state. The *pancreas* was small, hard, and of a yellowish white, resembling the curd of cheese, and adhered to the spleen; but it was in this viscus, the *spleen*, that the disease was principally seated, it being greatly enlarged, and adhering both to the peritoneum and left kidney. Being cut into, it was found to contain several abscesses of purulent matter, each abscess having a dark coloured thick sack around it, and one of the largest of them opened into the colon, which adhered to the lower part of the spleen, and from this, undoubtedly, was the discharge of pus by the rectum, which occurred three times during his disease, the last time being on the morning of his death.

The most remarkable symptoms, during his illness, were the severe rigors, resembling those in intermittent fever; and it is well known that in this fever, more than in any other, disorder of the spleen is produced, and frequently when severe, disarrangement of its structure; although Pemberton says he never met with a case of inflammation or consequent suppuration in the substance of this organ. What is the connexion be-

tween the rigors in intermittent fever, and disorder of the spleen? Many writers speak of a long continuance of intermittents, particularly of quartans, producing disease of the spleen, by the excessive determination of blood to this organ during the cold fit, as it has been found that those who die in this stage, have the spleen greatly distended with blood; but in this case, the pain of the patient, and no doubt some disorder of the spleen, occurred previous to the rigors, and these last we have reason to believe came on before any abscess had formed. It may be proper to add, that the patient resided in a neighborhood where the inhabitants were not subject to intermittent fevers.

We should be obliged to our correspondent if he will have the goodness to give us the detail of his reasons for supposing the rigors preceded the occurrence of the suppurative process; as the general impression must now be that they were such only as uniformly accompany the generation and absorption of matter. Ed.

INTELLIGENCE.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF MAINE.—This Society will hold their annual meeting at the Lecture-room of Prof. Cleveland, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, on Tuesday, Aug. 31st, at 10 o'clock, A. M.—An Address is expected to be delivered before the Society, and a dinner will be provided at Dr. Jonathan Page's.

SURGEONS.—Nine Surgeons and five Surgeon's mates have resigned their commissions in the navy since last September.—It may be interesting to young physicians who are seeking business, to inform them that there are between 3 and 400 applicants for the vacancies.

CYNANCHE MALIGNA.—Dysentery, but more particularly cynanche maligna, have appeared in the western part of this state: in several towns they are very fatal.

AFRICAN OAK.—Two sawyers in England have recently died in consequence of running splinters of the African oak into their flesh. The poisonous nature of this wood should be more generally known.

THE PLAGUE.—Accounts from Smyrna as late as the 12th of April, state that the plague which broke out at Cairo after the great fire, carried off 100 persons daily.

TO PATRONS AND THE PUBLIC.—The first quarter has now expired since we commenced the second volume of this publication—a publication which, when first established, called forth the discouragements of our friends, who supposed that a weekly medical work could not be supported in this country. Notwithstanding, however, the many discouraging circumstances which attended its commencement, we are happy to inform our patrons that the experiment has succeeded beyond our most sanguine expectations.—In order to enable us to keep up the interest of its pages, we are anxious to receive every kind of medical intelligence, public medical discourses and essays, health reports, accounts of anomalous diseases, reports of morbid anatomy, &c. &c. As our avocations, in the course of a few weeks, will subject us to other laborious duties, communications will be peculiarly acceptable—and it shall moreover be our constant ambition to exert every means to make the *Intelligencer* a valuable record of medical facts, and a welcome chronicle of passing events.—Under the head of **OBSERVATIONS**, and **REPORTS**, will generally be found matter entirely original. We shall soon complete our numbers on the disorders of literary men, and propose then to commence a series on the *moral causes of Epidemics*, in the course of which we shall notice particularly the history of the Fever which caused so much excitement and so much misery in Ireland, in the years 1816-17.—Under the head **REVIEWS**, will be noticed all recent medical publications which come within our knowledge: and we shall endeavour to be beyond the influence of personal partiality or prejudice, and unbiased by our own individual

doctrines, in giving our readers a view of those of our professional brethren.—Through the politeness of a gentleman in Philadelphia, we have received an "Inaugural Essay" for the degree of Doctor of Medicine, in the University of Pennsylvania, by Dr. James Webster, jr. which will be more particularly noticed in our next.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Ending August 14th, from the Health-Office Returns.

August 7.—Lucy N. Gaile, 11 mo.; Mary Crombie, 80; Sarah Hutchinson, 45; Tobias Curtis. 8.—Caroline G. Glover, 18 mo. 9.—Thomas Howe, 61; Cesar Raphael; man unknown. 10.—Susan Langdon, 20 mo. 11.—Samuel Rook White, 17 mo. 12.—Mary Cemee; Ebenezer Moulton, 56; William Graham; Daniel North, 57. 13.—James Howe, 67; Nathaniel Emmons, 32; Edmund Hart, 34; James Taylor, 8; Thomas Dorset, 9 mo.; Eliza A. Stone, 26. 14.—Mary Bridge, 35; Walter B. Handford, 34; Thomas Brown.

Lung-Fever, 1—Old age, 1—Debility, 2—Measles, 1—Drowned, 1—Cholera Morbus, 1—Infantile, 1—Mortification, 1—Intemperance, 1—Rheumatism, 1—Jaundice, 1—Consumption, 1—Canker, 1—Dysentery, 1—Ossification, 1.

Died, in Barnstable, Mass. Dr. Jonas Whitman, an able physician, æt. 74.—In Sutton, N. H. Dr. Benjamin Lovrin, æt. 40.—In Windsor county, N. Y. Dr. William Adams, æt. 89. In Norfolk, Virg. Dr. Wilmot F. Rogers, of the U. S. Navy, æt. 33.

Berkshire Medical Institution,

Connected with Williams College.

THE Annual Course of Medical Lectures in this Institution will commence on the second Wednesday of September, and continue fifteen weeks.—JOHN P. BATCHELDER, M. D. on Surgery, Anat. and Physiol. as subservient to the Theory and Practice of Medicine and Surgery. JEROME V. C. SMITH, M. D. on General Anatomy and Physiology. HENRY H. CHILDS, M. D. on Theory and Practice of Medicine. JOHN DELEMATTER, M. D. on Mat. Med. Pharmacy and Obstetrics. Prof. DEWEY on Chymistry, Botany, Mineralogy, Nat. and Experimental Philosophy. STEPHEN W. WILLIAMS, M. D. on Medical Jurisprudence.

Since the last season, the lecture rooms have been enlarged, and the apartments for students thoroughly repaired. The commons-house is a very convenient and elegant building, in which the trustees have made arrangements for boarding, washing and lodging, for the reasonable sum of dol. 1, 75 per week, including rent. Fees for all the lectures 40 dollars. A perpetual ticket for admission to the lectures on Anatomy, 25 dollars. Tuition for a resident student of the Institution, exclusive of the lectures, for one year, 50 dollars. Tickets for admission to the lectures on Chymistry, Botany, Mineralogy and Experimental Philosophy, 6 dols. Gentlemen who have received the degree of Doctor of Medicine, or those who have attended two full courses of lectures at any incorporated School, and Fellows of the Massachusetts Med. Society, are admitted gratuitously. The lectures upon Anatomy are given every morning at 10 o'clock, throughout the whole term, and while the demonstrations in Osteology continue, the students will be furnished with every thing necessary to facilitate their anatomical pursuits in their own rooms. The museum of the Institution, to which the students have free access, is constituted of a great variety of superior wax models, exhibiting most of the minute parts of the human body, valued at several thousand dollars; arterial preparations and various rare specimens of morbid anatomy, wet preparations, &c. which have been selected with great care and expense, besides nearly 2000 valuable specimens in mineralogy.

Degrees are conferred at the close of the lecture term, and at the annual commencement of Williams College. The examination of candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine, is conducted by the Faculty of the Institution, composed of all the Professors, and two delegates from the State Med. Society. As these examinations are private and confidential, if the person offering himself should be unsuccessful, it will never be known that he has been examined; on the contrary, if successful, he will receive a certificate of his qualification from the Dean of the Faculty, directed to the President and

Trustees of Williams College, for which he is required to pay 12 dollars. Any gentleman who has attended one course of lectures in any regularly established medical school, and a second course in this Institution, will be admitted to an examination for a degree.—For the purpose of giving the students every opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of the collateral branches of medical science, a Lyceum of Natural History has been established, in connection with the Institution, which holds its meetings once a week, during the lecture-term.

Pittsfield, Mass. Aug. 1824.

3w.

New-Hampshire Medical School.

THE Medical Institution of the State of New-Hampshire has been established at Hanover, in connection with Dartmouth College. The Medical College is a brick edifice three stories high, containing two large Lecture Halls, a Chymical Laboratory with a full apparatus and a large Cabinet of Minerals, an extensive and valuable museum of Anatomy, a Medical Library of a few hundred volumes, which is annually increasing, and several rooms for students.

The annual course of Lectures commences two weeks after the College Commencement, this year, (or Thursday, the 2d of September,) and continues fourteen weeks. Four lectures are delivered daily, and frequently five and even six, on the following branches, viz:—Anatomy, Surgery and Obstetrics, by R. D. MUSSEY, M. D. Theory and Practice of Physic, Physiol. and Mat. Med. by D. OLIVER, M. D. Chymistry, Pharmacy and Legal Medicine, by J. F. DANA, Esq.—Fees for all the courses 50 dollars. Boarding may be obtained for dol. 1, 25. The students are closely questioned at every lecture on the subject of the preceding lecture; the class is examined every week by each professor on the subject treated of in the lectures of the preceding week.

By the Prof. of Anatomy an important improvement has been made in the mode of teaching myology, one of the most laborious and difficult branches of the whole study of Anatomy. Sets of bones are painted with bright and vivid colours upon a white ground, exhibiting the origin and insertion of each muscle, together with the extent of its bony attachments; in addition to these a complete set of dried muscular preparations exhibit the various muscles painted with colours corresponding with those on the bones. These aids to the memory speak so strongly to the eye, as, in the opinion of those students who have made use of them, to diminish, by one half, the labour of studying myology.

An INFIRMARY has been commenced at Hanover by the medical Professors; boarding places have been engaged for patients who may need surgical operations, and for a small number labouring under chronic diseases. Surgical attendance is afforded gratis, and the medical class have the privilege of witnessing the operations.—From an account recently published of the resources of this Institution, it appears that at that place and in its neighbourhood, 138 operations have been performed within 30 months ending in June, among these, a successful operation for the stone on a corpulent patient aged 80 years, a successful case of tying the carotid artery, and several operations for strangulated hernia, and for removing large and important tumours from the neck, &c. &c. &c.

Hanover, July 30th, 1824.

3w.

To Teachers of Anatomy and Surgery.

THE Subscriber is engaged in making a Magnified Brain, from four to five feet round, in plaster and wax, minutely accurate, and naturally coloured, exhibiting the origin of the cerebral nerves. It revolves upon an axis, admirably calculated for demonstration to a large class, at a distance from the demonstrator.—Gentlemen desirous of securing one of these, are requested to forward their orders immediately. Price 40 dollars, without the arteries, and with them, 50 dollars.

School-street, Boston.

H. WILLIAMS.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER :

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BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1824.

No. 15.

OBSERVATIONS.

YELLOW-FEVER.

Communicated for the *Boston Medical Intelligencer*.

MR. EDITOR—The following hasty translation from the *Journal Général de Médecine, &c. à Paris, Octobre, 1819*, you are requested to insert in your valuable miscellany, as a specimen of the opinions and practice of several distinguished Spanish physicians. I shall say nothing of the correctness of their views and treatment.

Your obedient Servant,

Middletown, Conn.

THOMAS MINER.

Extract of a Letter upon Yellow-Fever dated Madrid, Nov. 11, 1819; from Dr. Mariano Lagasca to Leon Dufour, M. D. at St. Sever, (Landes).

DR. TADEO LAFUENTE, whose premature death is a great loss to science and humanity, employed, after 1804, and always with surprising success, very large doses of cinchona from the access of yellow-fever. I, as well as many others, owe my life to this method, which may be termed specific. The patient has no need of being subjected to any preliminary treatment. It is sufficient, if the cinchona is employed in due season, that is, within six or eight hours of the attack, or better, at the very access. It prevents all accumulation of offending matter in the primæ viæ, and if there exists a load at the stomach, the first, second, or third dose of cinchona evacuates, with the inappreciable advantage of not leaving the stomach in a state of irritation, which is liable to prevent the further employment of medicine, as happens after the use of tartar-emetic. Dr. Lafuente prescribed the Peruvian bark pulverized, in the dose of half an ounce or more; and he continued these doses boldly, till he had subdued the paroxysms.

This method of Dr. Lafuente was happily put in practice, during the severe epidemic of the yellow-fever, in 1811 and 1812, which raged in the kingdom of Mercia, and even had some victims in the French army. Of fifty persons employed in the military hospital of Mercia, who were in 1811 subjected to this treatment, none died; and we saw ourselves out of all danger, within forty-eight hours after the attack, with the exception of two of our colleagues, who arrived at the second period of the disease, in consequence of not having taken the cinchona in time. However, by persevering in its use, they were both restored in a few days. Observe, among those employed, there were persons of both sexes, and of every age. In the lazaretto, about seventy persons were employed in the service of the sick. They were almost all infected with the contagion; yet there were but two of them, (who were invalids,) that died; and one of them was labouring under a confirmed phthisis pulmonalis.

These happy results of Dr. Lafuente's method of cure, struck the eyes of all classes of people who witnessed them. Immediately, they provided themselves with the specific, and the greatest part of them habitually carried in their pockets half a pound of pulverized cinchona. They took of it as soon as they felt themselves attacked, so that when they came to consult a physi-

cian, they had already swallowed several ounces of the precious febrifuge. This circumstance restored a sense of security, and the year following, these very patients became the physicians of their fellow citizens; indeed, in this case, much abler physicians, than many persons who bear the title. [*The remainder in our next.*]

OPTIC NERVES AND CORPORA STRIATA.

By M. MAJENDIE.

In my former researches I have shewn that an animal, the hemispheres of whose brain are removed, sets off running with an agility of which prior to the experiment it did not seem to be possessed. In this rapid motion it passes over any obstacle which it may meet with, without appearing to see it; but the sense of hearing does not seem to be less energetic. On again investigating these phenomena, I have observed that it was not the loss of the body of the hemispheres which occasioned this rapid and irresistible movement, but the ablation of the corpora striata. If, in fact, both hemispheres, with the corpus callosum and the anterior lobes, be removed from a young rabbit, without injuring the corpora striata, no motion forwards occurs; the animal pretty nearly maintains its gait, modified, however, in an evident manner, by the pain and hemorrhage; its posture is not even altered when the grey matter which gives to the corpora striata their form of the segment of a curved cone is removed. I have several times abstracted this in the living animal, so as to expose the white fibres which, from the optic nerve, radiate and spread into the hemispheres, and no apparent modification has taken place in the motion. This fact is interesting, on account of the assertion of certain persons who attribute the origin of motion to the grey matter, whilst the white is in possession of sensation; an assertion which has been contradicted by the researches of M. Desmoulins in comparative anatomy.

What does not happen on the abstraction of the grey matter, does not fail to occur on the removal of the white: so soon as we begin to implicate the latter, the animal exhibits inquietude, and endeavours to escape; the removal, however, of one of the two corpora striata still leaves the animal master of its movements—it directs them in different ways, and stops when it pleases; but so soon as both corpora striata are separated by a vertical section from the thalamus opticus, the animal throws itself forwards, and flies as if pushed onwards by an irresistible power.

I have, for a long time, shewn, in my lectures on experimental physiology, that the wounding of the two thalami optici, in birds, induces the loss of sight. I made this experiment in a very simple manner: with the point of a large pin, I just wounded, through the parieties of the cranium, the tubercula in the cavity at the basis of the cranium, where they are situated. The wounding of one tubercle only enfeebled the sight; but I have never been able to prove whether there was a decussation in the effects—that is to say, whether the lesion of the right tubercle produced the loss of the left or right eye.

In order to judge of this decussated or non-decussated effect, I performed the following experiment:—I rendered the eye of a bird incapable of action, making its cornea opaque; and after twenty or thirty hours, I examined the optic nerves and the tuberculæ. I found, 1st, that the nerve of the diseased eye was wasted and yellow; 2d, that the atrophy existed beyond the decussation, and as far as the optic tubercle of the opposite side; 3d, that the tubercle had evidently become diminished in size; 4th, that the medullary matter of the nerve had disappeared at the interior of the fibrous sheath, where it was replaced by a yellowish cellular tissue; 5th, that the pearly radiating lamina, which is situated at the surface of the tubercle, no longer existed, and that the surface of the latter had become yellowish nearly like the nerve. These effects are often visible twelve days after the bird has ceased to see with one eye. I have constantly observed them in all the experiments which I have made on this subject.

This is the result of my observations on birds: but nothing similar took place in the mammalia. After six months, or even a year, after the loss of an eye, the optic nerve is merely wasted and yellow before the decussation; beyond, the two nerves, as well as the tubercles, are in a healthy condition. There are, however, some well authenticated examples, where the atrophy extended the whole length of the nerve; sometimes, however, the effect was in a cross direction, and occasionally it did not exist. There is, in the cabinet of comparative anatomy of the Museum of Paris, the brain of a one-eyed horse, where the atrophy extends as far as the tubercles of the opposite side. I have lately observed a similar case in a dog.

Man is in the same condition as the mammalia; the loss of each eye induces atrophy of the nerve, but it is very rare that it extends beyond the decussation. I have lately opened the body of a one-eyed individual, who had been so for thirty years: the optic nerve was wasted prior to the decussation, but it was healthy beyond it. In a girl who died during the last month at Hotel Dieu, and who had been blind of one eye for 7 years, atrophy of the nerve was scarcely visible.

MEDICAL SCIENCE AT EDINBURGH.

The Edinburgh School of Medicine has long been looked up to by the profession as the first in the empire; and it still possesses many meritorious peculiarities, and is still supported by several distinguished teachers. Latterly, however, there has been a manifest falling off, so far as the University is concerned—something of the dotage, perhaps, of an old institution;—but this has, in many cases, been well compensated to the medical students of Edinburgh, by the rival exertions of private lecturers. While Edinburgh has thus been distinguished for medical teachers, it has been no less famous for superior medical works, and particularly for some of the earliest & best periodical works on medicine, and collections of papers by medical associations. The Med. Jour-

nal still published there, is one of the oldest standing in the kingdom; and although it still sometimes contains good papers, it must be pronounced, on the whole, to be much in the same predicament as the University itself. The volume now before us, we might have expected to bear some of the marks of vigorous youth, and little of the symptoms of "eild," which hang about the other department of Edinburgh medical literature—inasmuch as young associations and societies, like young men, are usually active, spirited and clever. Truth, however, obliges us to confess, that there is not quite so much of this youthful buoyancy in the Transactions of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh, as we anticipated. Not but that they are written by clever men, and some of them in the opening noon of celebrity; yet there is altogether something a little tame, feeble, and uninteresting about the volume, considered as a whole, particularly in regard to practical remarks. The chief contributors to the volume are, Dr. Abercrombie, Dr. Kelly, Dr. Alison, Dr. A. Duncan, jun. and Dr. Gairdner.—*Anderson's Quarterly Med. Journal.*

MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

Perhaps a catalogue of the schools in the United States, with a comment upon their system of instruction, the facilities they offer for a medical education, and a history of their origin, would be an interesting article. At present, however, we have only leisure to mention their names, without offering many remarks.

There are—one in Pennsylvania, one in Kentucky, two in Massachusetts, two in the State of New-York, one in Maryland, one in N. Hampshire, one in Maine, one in South Carolina, newly organized, one in Ohio, two in Vermont, and one in Rhode-Island,—forming together a number sufficiently large to answer all the demands of the nation, including the army and navy; although, to the discouragement of our own enterprising professional youth, the government have always employed a considerable number of foreigners in the medical staff. Is not this a subject which demands the consideration of the secretaries of departments at Washington.

The Kentucky School, thus far, has had an unprecedented rapidity of growth, and from its peculiar location, with a vast country on the west, deserves and will receive continued patronage. The chairs in the Transylvania School are ably filled, and by men too who have given the strongest evidence of talents, original views, and what is still more to their honour, unceasing industry—without which, there can be neither eminence nor usefulness. Drs. Drake and Caldwell have a reputation that is founded on merit, which not only gives them the advantage of being the most distinguished physicians of the western country, but almost insures the success of the school to which they are attached, against envious feelings from abroad, or any tendency to decay in the school itself. We can only say that we wish them all the success that honourable enterprise entitles them to expect.

GRATUITOUS PRACTICE.

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer.

The practice of medicine in this city has generally been conducted under regulations fair and honourable, and by these means has upheld its own importance:—but still there are some infringements on its rules which have a tendency

to diminish its intrinsic value; and these infringements have been introduced by some who no doubt have benevolent intentions in so doing. I refer to that of *gratuitous advice*. There are many persons in every metropolis who cannot afford the expenses attendant on sickness; for these there are resources provided by means of Dispensary Societies, and the advice of intelligent and competent physicians is always at hand to relieve this class, and this association rejects none who are compelled by poverty to apply for assistance. But some physicians in this place, whether from charitable or interested motives, have their humane feelings so extended, as to give both advice and medicine gratis—and those to persons who can afford a recompense. By doing this, the real importance of medical advice is lessened, and the younger practitioners, and those who cannot distribute their talents and exertions in so profuse a manner, are cut off from a portion of practice which would otherwise come to them. Some of the above-alluded-to practitioners have the appearance of doing this to enlarge their number of private students; but I trust no such motive exists, and that, viewing its bad tendency, and perusing the established regulations of the Boston Medical Association, they will in future abandon it.

We beg leave to say that we do not wish the public to suppose we coincide in the views expressed in all the articles which are inserted in our paper as *Communications*. As it regards the above, we must add that the preference which even the poor have for their accustomed family physician, must be regarded by every one who enters into the feelings of patients towards their physician. We cannot think that any other than the most humane and honourable motives, influence those physicians who are in the habit of attending their poor friends without pecuniary compensation for their services, and this custom appears to us more a subject of congratulation than complaint.

REPORTS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical Intelligencer.

SIR—The following cases being, as far as my knowledge extends, new, in this part of the country, I take the liberty to transmit them to you for publication, if you think proper.

JEREMIAH SPAFFORD, M. M. S. Soc.
Bradford, Mass. July, 1824.

MORBUS DUCTUS CYSTICI.

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1816, I was called to S. S. who had been sick since the 18th; pain in the abdomen, great heat, thirst, and restlessness;—gave an emetic, followed by a cathartic of jalap and calomel, expecting that worms in the intestines might be the cause of fever. They produced very little operation, and I gave thebaic tinct. to relieve the violence of the pain. 21st.—Symptoms aggravated; gave additional cathartics with repeated enemata. Evening, symptoms were all aggravated; delirium and spasms, without any relief, till he died, which occurred about midnight.

DISSECTION.—I opened the body in presence of Dr. Farrar, of Londonderry. No worms could be found in the bowels, but we found the gall-bladder distended to six or eight times its natural size—the ductus cysticus enlarged to near its termination, where it was totally obstructed by a kind of wart-like excrescence from its inner

surface,—a large effusion of bile, which appeared to have transuded through the coats of the cyst into the cavity of the abdomen,—and inflammation extending to the duodenum and adjoining viscera. From these results, I had no hesitation in pronouncing that the obstruction of the bile was the cause of the death of the patient.

MAMMARY ABSCESS.

Soon after coming to this town in 1817, I was called upon to examine a case of diseased mamma, by the wife of Capt. Phineas Hawley, of this town. She gave me the following history:—She had for some years felt a soreness in a part of the breast, the origin of which she attributed to striking it with her hand, in weaving with a spring shuttle. It excited little attention, however, till she had the misfortune to bruise it against a post, whilst walking in a dark evening, after which it increased rapidly and was, when I first saw it, so protruded as to have a globular appearance, and was about seven or eight inches in diameter. It was then, and had been for many months, under the care of Dr. Moses Spafford, of Rowley. I saw it but occasionally, and witnessed its increasing size and threatening aspect. I measured its circumference in March, 1819; it was 39 inches; it was afterwards found to be 40. It was smooth, very little discoloured, and hard as if distended by some fluid. She complained of little pain or soreness, but much uneasiness on account of its great weight and size.

In Sept. 1819, I was called in great haste, the attendants apprehending that mortification had taken place, and that the life of the patient was in imminent danger. I found the diseased organ distended as before, and that the surface had suddenly assumed a dark, livid, brassy appearance; indicating, to my mind, that the blood could no longer be moved through such an unnatural and extensive mass. I directed a strong decoction of the salix Rub. to be constantly applied, with the carbonic plaister to a part which appeared somewhat darker than the rest. These applications, with stimulants internally, had more effect than was expected, and restored most of the tumour to its former appearance; a part however remained dark and gangrenous. It continued in this state several weeks, when the sphacelated part burst, and discharged, almost instantly, nearly two gallons of black, fetid matter, leaving the integuments somewhat thickened, in a flaccid state. Some portions of the edges sloughed off, making an aperture of three or four inches in diameter, through which the pectoral muscles were completely exposed, as the whole glandular structure had been involved in the putrid matter, which had been discharged at first, or removed among the several pounds of fungous flesh which had been taken away at the subsequent dressings. She lingered in the most uncomfortable state imaginable, with a considerable degree of pain, a most fetid, cadaverous and penetrating effluvia, and the certainty of speedy dissolution, till March 2d, 1820, when she expired.

As to the nosological character of this case—I considered it as the "Cancer Fungosus" of Mr. Berchien.* Whether an early operation might have averted the progress of this complaint, may perhaps be doubted; it was, however, in every stage of the case entirely out of the question, as

* See Bell's Surg. Abridged by Waters, Philadelphia, 1806.

it did not accord with the opinion of her attending physician, or with her own mind.

In the treatment I had little concern except as before stated, neither did I consider it essential, except as to diet and temperance, believing that it was, from the first, beyond the reach of medicine.

CASE OF COMPOUND FRACTURE.

*Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer,
By a Physician of Boston.*

On Monday, July 26th, Mr. Rinds, while charging a rock, struck the top of the rod, which caused an explosion, that threw him into the air with much force, and he fell upon the beach, ten feet below where he had been standing. When taken up, he was found to be horribly disfigured, and immediately placed under the care of Dr. Samuel Adams. Besides very many considerable wounds upon different parts of the body, and his face and hands much burnt and completely blackened by gunpowder, there was a double compound fracture of the right tibia. The fractures were distinct, about three inches apart, and a stone was removed, two inches long at its greatest length, and of an irregular shape, with sharp edges, which was buried in the muscular part of the leg. The fractures, which were oblique, being reduced, and the wounds dressed, the leg was confined in a fracture-box. On the 28th, very little inflammation has arisen. The patient suffers but little pain from the leg. The hands and face are much burnt. A fragment of the rock struck upon the right ala nasi, and apparently struck the right eye;—the patient however is sensible of light.

Saturday.—Removed the dressings; the wounds discharge a healthy pus; very little swelling.—The leg retains the posture in which it was placed at the first dressing. The other wounds, one of which, upon the left thigh, was of considerable extent, and one upon the left inner ankle, have healed by the first intention.

Tuesday, Aug. 4th.—Examined the fracture; position of the leg favourable; there is no contraction; discharge from the wounds, healthy pus; leg very little swollen, and inflammation slight; more excitement of the system than on Saturday; pulse at 85; tongue coated; has had no passage from the bowels since the accident; suffers but little pain from the leg, but his hands and face remain painful. Dressed the fracture by renewing bandages; dressed the other wounds which are nearly healed; ordered sup. tart. pot. ʒi. dissolved in a quart of water, as a drink. Diet, gruel and broth, with a little wine and water.

5th.—Comfortable, but has had a restless night. The laxative drink has produced four dejections. Pulse 80; tongue coated; rather easier than yesterday.

7th.—Comfortable night. Very considerable discharge from the fracture, but of a healthy pus. The wound upon the left thigh discharges freely; suppuration has extended along the muscle up the leg; pulse 80. Passed a bandage from the left hip to the knee.

8th.—Rather restless during the night. Fractures have a healthy appearance. Left leg continues to suppurate, a considerable sinus having formed beyond the external wound. Left eye much inflamed, with a tunic over the pupil and cornea.

10th.—Restless night. Fracture appears doing well. By the pressure of the bandage, the

pus has been prevented from passing farther, and the wound inclines to heal.

11th.—Much as yesterday. Wound on the left thigh appears to be doing well.

CASE OF CHRONIC PNEUMONIA, CAUSED BY ELONGATION OF THE UVULA.

The following case shows the necessity of attending to the uvula, in the treatment of chronic pneumonia. It also serves to confirm the accuracy of a remark, long since made by our countryman, Dr. Physick, that many cases of supposed phthisis, are produced by the irritation of an elongated uvula.

A female, thirty years of age, born of healthy parents, and possessed herself of a healthy constitution, who had contracted a cough, from frequent exposure to vicissitudes of temperature, after a year's suffering, presented the following symptoms, notwithstanding the "use of the most heroic and the most varied means which were considered proper for retarding the progress of a severe disorganization of the parenchyma of the lungs.—The respiration was oppressed; a considerable constriction of the thorax existed; and acute, lancinating, and fugacious pains, increased on coughing and on full inspiration, were felt in that cavity; the patient was continually attempting to swallow or to hawk up mucus from the throat; a fixed pain, accompanied with tickling, existed in the larynx; the appetite was almost null; the tongue was sometimes white, and sometimes in a natural condition; her pale countenance, extreme emaciation, depressed condition, both moral and physical, seemed, however, to indicate the profound lesion of some important organ; the chest, carefully explored, resounded very well in every part, except at the upper portion, where the sound seemed a little dull; the pulse was sometimes small, unequal, and at other times frequent and full, and frequently changed in less than half an hour to one or other of these conditions."

M. Cuynat, on examining the fauces, found the uvula elongated, loose on the base of the tongue, and distended with serous fluid. It occurred to him that all the symptoms experienced by the patient were occasioned by the elongation of this appendix. All internal treatment was discontinued, and the superabundant portion of the uvula was cut off. Fifteen days had scarcely elapsed before all the symptoms previously indicated had ceased: the patient was soon completely restored to health.

INTELLIGENCER.

BOYLSTON MED. PRIZE QUESTIONS.—At the annual meeting of the Boylston Medical Committee, holden in Boston, Aug. 4th, 1823, it was voted, that the Medal of the Committee, or 50 dollars in money, be awarded to the author of a dissertation upon the question "How long may the human body remain immersed in water without extinction of life, and at what period after immersion will it be useless to employ restorative means?" The author was found to be Samuel Wainwright, M. D. of Natchez, Mississippi.—No dissertation on the other question proposed for 1824, was offered.

The following constitute the subjects for the prize dissertations for 1825, to wit:—1st. "To what extent has the Vaccine Disease been found to be a preventative of the Small-pox?"—2d. On the History of the Autumnal Fevers of New-England."*—The questions for the prize

* The writers on this subject are not expected to discuss the causes, or modes of treatment of such fevers, as

dissertations of 1826, are the following, viz:—1st. "On the diseases resembling Syphilis, and the best means of preventing such diseases."—2d. "Whether the Veins perform the function of Absorption?"

Dissertations on the two first questions must be transmitted, post paid, to David Townsend, M. D. of Boston, on or before the first Wednesday in April, 1825; and on the two last questions, on or before the first Wednesday in April, 1826.—The author of the best dissertation on each of these subjects, will be entitled to the premium above mentioned. Each dissertation must be accompanied with a sealed packet, on which shall be written some device or sentence, and within shall be enclosed the author's name and place of residence. The same device or sentence is to be inscribed on the dissertation to which the packet is attached.—All unsuccessful dissertations are deposited with the Secretary of the Committee, from whom their author's may obtain them, if called for within one year after received.

MED. INSTITUTION OF YALE COLLEGE.—The Lectures in this Institution will commence on Monday, Oct. 25th, and continue till March 1st.—Theory and Practice of Medicine and Surgery, N. Smith, M. D. Chemistry and Pharmacy, B. Silliman, M. D. Materia Medica and Botany, Eli Ives, M. D. Anatomy and Physiology, J. Knight, M. D.—A course of Lectures on the Diseases of Children is also given by the Professor of Materia Medica, and a private course on Obstetrics by the Professor of Anatomy. Since the last course, measures have been taken to increase the Medical Library; & large additions to the anatomical cabinet are expected in the course of the season.—The price of the tickets is dls. 12,50 for each of the above courses, or 50 dls. for the whole. The matriculation ticket, and the bill for contingent expenses, is dls. 7,50. For this, students may have access to the anatomical rooms, and to the library. The bills must be paid at the commencement of the lectures. Board may be procured in respectable families at from dol. 1,75 to dls. 2,25 per week.

MEDICAL LECTURES.—The annual course of lectures on medicine, in the University of Vermont, will commence on Monday, Sept. 6th, and continue 12 weeks. Nathan Smith, M. D. C. S. M. S. London, (Prof. in Yale College,) on the Theory and Practice of Surgery and Obstetrics.—Joseph A. Gallup, M. D. on the Theory and Practice of Physic, and Materia Medica.—Nathan R. Smith, M. D. on Anatomy and Physiology.—Arthur L. Porter, M. D. on Chemistry and Pharmacy.—Fees for all the lectures, 40 dls. Matriculating ticket, 3 dollars. Graduation fees, 12 dollars.

MEDICAL DEGREES.—On the 16th inst. six medical students were examined at the Massachusetts Medical College, by the Faculty of Harvard University, for the degree of M. D. four of whom were admitted.

The degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on twelve young gentlemen belonging to the Med. School of the University of Vermont; and the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine, on Drs. Silas Bowen, Stephen Cleaveland Blythe, Luther E. Hall, Joseph D. Farnsworth, Henry S. Waterhouse, and James Campbell.

FEE-BILL.—The Physicians of New-Bedford, Mass. have recently agreed upon the following fee-bill.

	Dolls. cts.
For a visit in the village	50
Within two miles of the village	75
Within three miles of do.	1 00
Within four miles of do.	1 25
Within five miles of do.	1 50
Within six miles of do.	1 75
Over six miles, an addition for each mile	25
When especially called in the night, an additional charge of fifty to one hundred cents, as circumstances may be.	
For consultation, in addition to the above rate	1 00
Common cases of midwifery	4 00
Reducing luxated and fractured bones, from 2 to 5	00
Extirpating small tumours, from 1 to 5	00
do. large do. from 5 to 10	00
Extracting teeth	25
Bleeding	25
Introducing the catheter, in addition to the visit	1 00

these are intended to constitute the subject of future dissertations.

For each subsequent time, in addition to the visit	50
Operating for Fistula in Ano	10 00
Syphilis from five dols. to ten, (from three to five to be taken in advance.)	
For Amputation	20 00
For Trepanning	15 00
Paracentesis Abdominis, for the first time	5 00
For each subsequent time, from 1 to	1 50
Operating for Hydrocele	2 00
Operating for Strangulated Hernia	15 00
For dressing wounds, the first time, from 1 to	5 00
For each subsequent time, from 50 cts. to	1 00
For tying arteries, from 50 cts. to	5 00

The above are to be considered as their common charges. For detention or any uncommon case, an addition to the fees will be expected.

FEVER BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS.—We learn with grief that the disease which pervaded the western country the last summer, has again commenced its ravages on the shores of the Ohio.

IGNITION OF PLATINUM SPONGE.—Professor Dana, of Dartmouth College, N. H. has observed that the vapor of ether or of alcohol produces the same effects in igniting platinum sponge, that follow when it is exposed to a stream of hydrogen gas. For the success of the experiment it is only requisite that the temperature of the metal should be slightly raised.

YELLOW-FEVER.—There have been no cases of this disease the present season, either in this city, Portland, or any other part of New-England. Any rumors to the contrary may be regarded as destitute of foundation.

DISEASE AMONG CATTLE.—A very malignant disease is now prevailing among *black cattle*, particularly cows, in Ireland. Great numbers of the carcasses of those that have died, have been carried into the Dublin market, and exposed there for sale. His lordship the chief magistrate of that city, is making every exertion to check this horrid evil, and within one week previous to the last dates, he is said to have seized eight carcasses of the above description.

HYDROPHOBIA.—A few severe cases of hydrophobia have recently occurred in different parts of England, and created so much alarm, that 2500 dogs have been destroyed in Liverpool, and as many more have perished in Manchester.—During the week before last, 84 dogs were also taken up by the police of Philadelphia, (Pennsylvania,) killed and buried.

DELIGHTS OF MILLING.—At a recent fight in Canterbury, a man was killed on the spot by blows received from his adversary. The English public have also been amused of late at Chichester, by a regular set-to between one Spring and Langan. After 76 rounds, which lasted an hour and forty minutes, Langan was most shockingly bruised, and totally blinded of both eyes; and from the frequent contact of Spring's fists against the hard pate of his antagonist, they were so bruised and battered, that his pain and confinement will be little less than that of the brave son of St. Patrick. Both, by the last accounts, required the constant care of the most skilful medical attendants.—If such accidents occurred in this country, the world might stand a better chance of owing something to American Physicians and Surgeons.

WORKS IN PRESS.—By Carey & Lea, Phil. Essays on the Variolous, Vaccine and Varioloid Diseases. By N. Chapman, M. D.—Chapman on Fever.—Cooke on Nervous Diseases.—A System of Midwifery. By William P. Dewes, M. D.

In School-Street, there was formerly a sign,—“Dr. Trot,” which was ultimately succeeded by one with the name—“Dr. Gallup.” An Irishman observing the change, said he was *plac’d* with the doctor’s success, as he had got from a *trot* into a *gallop*!

A physician who fancied himself a poet, on his death bed requested the following epitaph to be inscribed on his tombstone:—

*Here lies a doctor destitute of drugs,
His soul has fled, his flesh is left for bugs—*

which was accordingly done; but a young son of Esculapius, who had previously felt himself injured by the deceased on some professional occasion, completed the verse by adding—

*He lived a life forever in the fault,
And stops at last where all his patients halt.*

The gentleman who presented Dr. Laenec, of Paris, with the first volume of the Med. Intelligencer, which particularly met his approbation, will please accept our thanks; and if he will do us the favour to call upon us, he shall receive another elegantly bound copy of our work, gratuitously.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Ending August 21st, from the Health-Office Returns.

August 14th.—James Wood, 12 mo.; John B. Darlin, 3; Frederick A. Spear, 9. 15th.—Nancy Newton, 16th.—Child of Reman Anthony; Almira Sampson, 24; Elizabeth Newcomb, 60; Ebenezer Paine, 55. 17th.—John E. Paine, 2; Eliza Fairbanks, 34; Henry Higginson, 17; ——— Hill; ——— Lindsey; Laura Paine, 3. 18th.—Elizabeth Mc Kim; Seth Meros; Mary Clap, 33; Thomas Lewis, 54. 19th.—Thomas Hale Taylor, 42; Rufus Holbrook, 40; Elisha N. Dwelle, 7 mo. 20th.—Eleanor Evans; William Henry Lienow, 24.

Dysentery, 2—Dropsy in the Head, 1—Fits, 1—Infantile, 1—Spasms, 1—Fever, 1—Stillborn, 2—Typhus Fever, 3—Cholera Morbus, 1—Accidental, 1—Inflammation in the Bowels, 1—Mortification, 1.

Died, in Hillsborough, N. H. Dr. L. Smith, æt. 40.

Berkshire Medical Institution,

Connected with Williams College.

THE Annual Course of Medical Lectures in this Institution will commence on the second Wednesday of September, and continue fifteen weeks.—JOHN P. BATCHELDER, M. D. on Surgery, Anat. and Physiol. as subservient to the Theory and Practice of Medicine and Surgery. JEROME V. C. SMITH, M. D. on General Anatomy and Physiology. HENRY H. CHILDS, M. D. on Theory and Practice of Medicine. JOHN DELEMATTER, M. D. on Mat. Med. Pharmacy and Obstetrics. Prof. DEWEY on Chymistry, Botany, Mineralogy, Nat. and Experimental Philosophy. STEPHEN W. WILLIAMS, M. D. on Medical Jurisprudence.

Since the last season, the lecture rooms have been enlarged, and the apartments for students thoroughly repaired. The common-house is a very convenient and elegant building, in which the trustees have made arrangements for boarding, washing and lodging, for the reasonable sum of dol. 1, 75 per week, including rent. Fees for all the lectures 40 dollars. A perpetual ticket for admission to the lectures on Anatomy, 25 dollars. Tuition for a resident student of the Institution, exclusive of the lectures, for one year, 50 dollars. Tickets for admission to the lectures on Chymistry, Botany, Mineralogy and Experimental Philosophy, 6 dols. Gentlemen who have received the degree of Doctor of Medicine, or those who have attended two full courses of lectures at any incorporated School, and Fellows of the Massachusetts Med. Society, are admitted gratuitously. The lectures upon Anatomy are given every morning at 10 o'clock, throughout the whole term, and while the demonstrations in Osteology continue, the students will be furnished with every thing necessary to facilitate their anatomical pursuits in their own rooms. The museum of the Institution, to which the students have free access, is constituted of a great variety of superior wax models, exhibiting most of the minute parts of the human body, valued at several thousand dollars; arterial preparations and various rare specimens of morbid anatomy, wet preparations, &c. which have been selected with great care and expense, besides nearly 2000 valuable specimens in mineralogy.

Degrees are conferred at the close of the lecture term, and at the annual commencement of Williams College. The examination of candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine, is conducted by the Faculty of the Institution, composed of all the Professors, and two delegates from the State Med. Society. As these examinations are private and confidential, if the person offering himself should be unsuccessful, it will never be known that he has been examined; on the contrary, if successful, he will receive a certificate of his qualification from

the Dean of the Faculty, directed to the President and Trustees of Williams College, for which he is required to pay 12 dollars. Any gentleman who has attended one course of lectures in any regularly established medical school, and a second course in this Institution, will be admitted to an examination for a degree.—For the purpose of giving the students every opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of the collateral branches of medical science, a Lyceum of Natural History has been established, in connection with the Institution, which holds its meetings once a week, during the lecture-term.

Pittsfield, Mass. Aug. 1824.

3w.

New-Hampshire Medical School.

THE Medical Institution of the State of New-Hampshire has been established at Hanover, in connection with Dartmouth College. The Medical College is a brick edifice three stories high, containing two large Lecture Halls, a Chymical Laboratory with a full apparatus and a large Cabinet of Minerals, an extensive and valuable museum of Anatomy, a Medical Library of a few hundred volumes, which is annually increasing, and several rooms for students.

The annual course of Lectures commences two weeks after the College Commencement, (this year on Thursday, the 2d of September,) and continues fourteen weeks. Four lectures are delivered daily, and frequently five and even six, on the following branches, viz:—Anatomy, Surgery and Obstetrics, by R. D. MUSSEY, M. D. Theory and Practice of Physic, Physiol. and Mat. Med. by D. OLIVER, M.D. Chymistry, Pharmacy and Legal Medicine, by J. F. DANA, Esq.—Fees for all the courses 50 dollars. Boarding may be obtained for dol. 1, 25. The students are closely questioned at every lecture on the subject of the preceding lecture; the class is examined every week by each professor on the subject treated of in the lectures of the preceding week.

By the Prof. of Anatomy an important improvement has been made in the mode of teaching myology, one of the most laborious and difficult branches of the whole study of Anatomy. Sets of bones are painted with bright and vivid colours upon a white ground, exhibiting the origin and insertion of each muscle, together with the extent of its bony attachments; in addition to these a complete set of dried muscular preparations exhibit the various muscles painted with colours corresponding with those on the bones. These aids to the memory speak so strongly to the eye, as, in the opinion of those students who have made use of them, to diminish, by one half, the labour of studying myology.

An INFIRMARY has been commenced at Hanover by the medical Professors; boarding places have been engaged for patients who may need surgical operations, and for a small number labouring under chronic diseases. Surgical attendance is afforded gratis, and the medical class have the privilege of witnessing the operations.—From an account recently published of the resources of this Institution, it appears that at that place and in its neighbourhood, 138 operations have been performed within 30 months ending in June, among these, a successful operation for the stone on a corpulent patient aged 80 years, a successful case of tying the carotid artery, and several operations for strangulated hernia, and for removing large and important tumours from the neck, &c. &c. &c.

Hanover, July 30th, 1824.

3w.

To Teachers of Anatomy and Surgery.

THE Subscriber is engaged in making a Magnified Brain, from four to five feet round, in plaster and wax, minutely accurate, and naturally coloured, exhibiting the origin of the cerebral nerves. It revolves upon an axis, admirably calculated for demonstration to a large class, at a distance from the demonstrator.—Gentlemen desirous of securing one of these, are requested to forward their orders immediately. Price 40 dollars, without the arteries, and with them, 50 dollars.

School-street, Boston.

H. WILLIAMS.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER:

Published weekly, at two dollars a year. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1824.

No. 16.

OBSERVATIONS.

YELLOW-FEVER.

Communicated for the *Boston Medical Intelligencer*,
By THOMAS MINER, M. D. of Middletown, Conn.

Extract of a Letter upon Yellow-Fever dated Madrid, Nov. 11, 1819; from Dr. Mariano Lagasca to Leon Dufour, M. D. at St. Sever, (Landes).

(Concluded from page 61.)

Among many cases of my own practice, which proclaim aloud the triumph of Dr. Lafuente's method, I will confine myself to the relation of the following fact. Joaquin Navarro, a captain in the regiment of Lorca, twenty five years of age, of a sanguine, bilious temperament, of a good physical constitution, but of a very limited mind, arrived at the lazaretto of Mercia, twenty four hours after an attack of the yellow-fever. Considerable general debility, small, contracted, and frequent pulse, acrid heat and slight deafness, threatenings of deliquium, inability to remain in an erect posture, anxieties of the epigastrium, with a disposition to vomit, whitish tongue, sunk features of the face, paleness, mind strongly impressed with the idea of very near destruction, especially if the bark should be administered to him, against which a monk had powerfully prejudiced him. I judged in an instant, that this unfortunate man would fail, whatever method of treatment might be adopted; (for as yet he had taken nothing.) At first, I attempted to inspire him with an exaggerated confidence, and then I made him take half an ounce of cinchona at a dose, recommending to the nurse to give him the same quantity an hour after. This nurse, who had been treated and cured by Lafuente's method, thought it a duty to surpass my directions, and made him swallow an ounce and a half at once. Half an hour after this imprudent dose, I found the patient extremely uneasy, the face inflamed, the pulse much raised, a very sharp heat, and inexpressible restlessness; all which left me with very little hope. But after the nurse had informed me of the cause of these unexpected symptoms, I was easy upon the subject, and in an hour and a half afterwards, I gave him two drams of cinchona. The pulse soon became large, full and strong, the skin assumed a breathing suppleness, and finally, a copious sweat appeared. Now, I did not hesitate to warrant his recovery. In the space of twenty-six hours, he took sixteen ounces of cinchona in powder. Fifty-six hours from the first attack of the disease, he earnestly requested food. Soup and wine were allowed him. The following day, I met him walking in full convalescence. A perfect cure soon followed.

You ask me, what place I would assign to the yellow-fever in a system of nosology?—This disease, I consider, as produced by the application to the animal economy, of a virus sui generis; it is very analogous to the malignant (*pernicioses*) intermittents, or rather, it ought to be arranged among them. The proofs of this opinion are, first, the decidedly intermittent type, which the philosophical physician, and careful discriminator, can always observe; secondly, the remark-

able forms that this fever assumes, according to the essential organ, which is the seat of the morbid principle; thirdly and lastly, the treatment by cinchona is attended with the same success as in intermittents.

SKETCH OF THE MEDICAL HISTORY OF CONNECTICUT.

Communicated for the *Boston Medical Intelligencer*.

It is hoped that the many unavoidable omissions in these remarks, will not be considered as an intentional neglect of any gentlemen of distinguished talents now living, or as a want of respect to the memory of any deceased worthies; but that they will be candidly attributed to the true cause,—the great difficulty of procuring correct information and documents.

The Rev. Jared Eliot, of Killingsworth, a very respectable divine, was the first physician, botanist, and naturalist of his day, in Connecticut, and probably, in New-England. He was a correspondent of Franklin, and several members of the Royal Society, and may be considered as the father of Physic in Connecticut. He published several works, and died about 1764, not far from 80 years of age. Among his cotemporaries and successors up to the revolutionary war, the names of his son in law Gale, Morrison, Osborn, sen. Wolcott, Mather, and the Surgeons, Porter, Jipson and Tudor, ought to be remembered with respect and gratitude. Between these gentlemen and the great body of those who are now on the stage of practice, the list of respectable physicians is so extensive, that it is difficult to make a proper selection. The two Hulberts, Bird, Hubbard, Munson, the two Potters, Waldo, Fish, Beardsby, Moseley, West, Hopkins, Nesbit, Osborn, jun. Perry, Sheppard, Sheldon, Pyncheon, Levi Ives, Wells, and the Surgeons, Spalding and Turner, are among the most distinguished. Of the present practitioners, those who are considered as being at the head of their profession, and who will not be found deficient in comparison with any of their cotemporaries, are, in Surgery, the late president of the Medical Society, Mason T. Cogswell, M. D., the Professor of Surgery of the Medical Institution of Yale College, Nathan Smith, M. D., and the present president of the Medical Society, Thomas Hubbard, M. D. The physician to the Retreat for the Insane at Hartford, Eli Todd, M. D., and the Professor of Botany at Yale College, Eli Ives, M. D., are at the head of the practice of Physic. To select any more names, among our present practitioners of distinguished merit, would be a matter of much delicacy; but the gentlemen just mentioned are of such pre-eminent talents as to be acknowledged by all.

The medical publications of the natives or inhabitants of this State, though not very numerous, are respectable. The following list though quite imperfect, it is believed, contains the principal.—*Cases and Observations*, by the Medical Society of New-Haven, 1788. This is a valuable miscellany, and gives a very favourable

view of the state of medicine among us, about forty years ago.—*Dissertation on the Disease termed Spotted Fever*, by Nathan Strong, Hartford, 1810. This describes one of the severest varieties of that disease, and forms an important article in the medical history of the State.—A selection from Communications to the Medical Society of Connecticut, was published in 1810.—*Treatise on Spotted Fever*, by Elisha North, M. D. 1811. The practice adopted by Dr. N. is judicious and philosophical, and was imitated with unparalleled success in many parts of the country which were afterwards afflicted with the same epidemic. There were some professed and obstinate bleeders and calomel men, who suffered their patients to die rather than relent in their favourite but erroneous practice; but wherever the method recommended by Dr. N. was followed, it was crowned with such success, that this work alone entitles its author to the credit of being an extensive benefactor to mankind.—*Remarks on Spotted Fever* as it appeared in Hartford, in 1809, by Henry Fish, in the Transactions of the Physico-Medical Society of New-York, 1817.—*On Pestilence*, by Noah Webster, L. L. D. This is a work of unparalleled industry and research.—Dr. Elihu H. Smith, in company with Dr. Mitchell, first edited the New York Medical Repository. He also wrote on Yellow Fever. He was one of the first scholars and authors of his day.—The late professor John C. Osborne, M. D. of New-York, was a native of this State, and here received his literary and professional education.—Dr. Buel is the author of an account of the fevers that prevailed in Sheffield in 1793-4-5, and of several interesting articles in the journals.—Drs. Munson, sen. and jun. wrote upon the Yellow Fever of New-Haven, 1794.—Drs. Wood and Bester have written on Spotted Fever.—Dr. Comstock, of Lebanon, is the author of an able *Essay on Prognosis*, beside several other articles.—Professor Tully has written upon *Sanguinaria Canadensis*, on *Sclerotium Clavus*, on *Scutellaria lateri-flora*, &c.—Dr. Rockwell is the author of a very interesting *Essay upon Puerperal Hemorrhage*.—Many other communications from the Connecticut physicians and surgeons, of not inferior merit to those which have been specified, are to be found in the periodical journals of Boston, New-York and Philadelphia.

Dr. John Eli of Saybrook, was one of the earliest and most successful inoculators of Small-pox in America.—Dr. Jehiel Hoadley of Middletown, introduced Blood-root into regular practice in Croup, fifty or sixty years ago.—*Indigenous Materia Medica*, under our able Professor of Botany, is more successfully cultivated at New-Haven, than in almost any other part of the country. It is well known that to him we are indebted for the introduction of many valuable articles into the national Pharmacopœa.—Chemistry is no where in the world better taught than under the professor of Yale College.—Dr. John Stearns, who in future times will unquestionably be ranked with Jenner and the other great benefactors of humanity, from his investigation of

the well known, much abused but much used ergot, is a native of this State.—The medical works which have appeared within the last two years, are too well known to need repetition or comment.—The character of our medical school is such as not to fail in comparison with the similar institutions of our neighbours.—Upon the whole, as respects scientific and practical medicine, though we have several things to regret, and even some to censure, yet probably there are as many that merit approbation, in Connecticut, in proportion to its population and resources, as in any State in the Union.

Connecticut, August, 1824.

MEDICAL FACULTY OF BERKS COUNTY, PENN.

We are happy to see that the Physicians of this county are assembled into a fraternity, to concentrate the objects and regulate the practice of the profession in that part of the country.—At the meeting, an account of which will be seen on our last page, several resolutions were passed, highly honourable to their zeal and humanity, and the following Address was drawn up and signed by Mr. President Hiester and Secretary Baum, which every physician will read with pleasure and advantage.

Gentlemen of the Medical Faculty,

My warmest acknowledgements are due to you for honouring me, by an unanimous vote, with the first office of your society; and the best pledge I can offer of my future zeal for its prosperity, is the interest I have already taken in its establishment.

Now that our institution (which is the first of the kind in Pennsylvania, except the College of Physicians and the Medical Society of Philadelphia,) is organized, permit me to remark that we commence our operations under auspices solemn and impressive. We have not, like those of most other associations, chosen to form ourselves into a self-constituted body, liable to be dissolved by every adverse breeze; but we have boldly demanded the sanction of the proper authorities, and we found our existence on the permanent basis of the act of incorporation.

The invitation we have thus virtually given to the profession elsewhere, and to the public generally, to mark our origin and observe our progress, imposes upon us new and weighty obligations, in addition to those ordinarily incumbent on the practising physician. Carefully to observe diseases, diligently to watch their immense variety of symptoms, and faithfully to charge the memory with the effects of remedies, as guides in future practice, are duties indispensable to every practitioner who aims at individual excellence;—but associated as we now are, for the avowed as well as substantial purpose of improving medical knowledge in this part of the country, and thereby enlarging our usefulness to the community, more will justly be expected from us in our collective capacity. "I hold," says Lord Bacon, "every man a debtor to his profession; from which as men of course do seek countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavour themselves, by way of amends, to be a help and an ornament thereunto." The imperfect state of the medical profession in common with all others, its dependence mainly for improvement on an accumulation of practical facts, and above all its immense importance to mankind, render it peculiarly incumbent on its

members, wherever they may be located, to contribute their aid to its advancement. Dispersed, however, as we are, in different parts of the country, and confined to our respective circles of practice by a pursuit at once arduous and painful, we have little leisure, and perhaps less inclination to commit to paper for the inspection of others, the results of our individual experience and observation. Insulated with regard to our professional brethren, the only competent judges of our merit, and accustomed to the indiscriminate praises of our patients, we are in continual danger of mistaking the reputation we enjoy, for actual superiority of skill; while we daily drop in the rear of our cotemporaries, by neglecting to cultivate those vast accessions of knowledge to our science, that so pre-eminently distinguish the age in which we live. Without the advantages of a frequent exchange, and comparison of knowledge with our brethren in practice, we are inclined to listen to the suggestions of vanity, and imagine ourselves standards of perfection, while we glide into a dull routine of practice *exclusively* founded on our own limited experience. The solemn obligation of every practitioner, to bring to the bed-side of his patient the most enlightened views of disease, and the best curative means, afforded by the present state of the healing art, is forgotten, and there is a disposition in cases of failure, to seek refuge from the reproaches of an offended conscience in the miserable reflection that "we have done our duty to the best of our knowledge." An unlimited sanction is thus given to indolence or ignorance, as the case may be; while the high responsibilities, and real dignity of the profession in relieving the sufferings of our fellow-creatures, in preserving human life, are lost in their subserviency to a sordid subsistence, and prostituted to purposes purely mercenary. Deprived of professional intercourse, and little inclined to invigorate the judgment by study and reflection, our intellects tend to assimilate with those of our associates as certainly as heat tends to an equilibrium; and such, moreover, is the disposition of the human mind to collapse, that without the application of powerful incentives, the mere practising physician is especially liable to deteriorate rather than improve.

Other professions would seem to have the advantage of being better comprehended by the mass of mankind than that of medicine. Law and theology, although abstract sciences in their extended ramifications, are nevertheless founded in the constitution of human nature. As every one has a sense of Deity, which is the origin of the one, so every individual has a sense of right and wrong, which is the sub-structure of the other science;—but where is the man who without much study, and a knowledge especially of anatomy and the laws of the animal economy, can clearly comprehend a single disease? While the lawyer therefore, or the divine, may be said to meet with a professional companion, in some measure, in every one with whom he is disposed to converse, the physician alone feels himself a stranger in thought, in language, and in action. Whatever may be his stock of knowledge when he begins his career in practice, he soon discovers, if he was not before aware, that he has been taught a science and a language not intelligible to any one out of his profession. To avoid the imputation of pedantry, he retreats within

himself, and is in danger of losing not only the principles, but even the very nomenclature of his science. To counteract such tendency by creating a spirit of generous emulation, to elevate the profession by exciting a thirst for general knowledge, and to cultivate a taste for observation and inquiry by combining the efforts and skill of physicians in various parts of the country, are surely objects worthy of our institution.

DISORDERS OF LITERARY MEN.—NO. X.

3d. EXERCISE. That bodily exercise is essential to the preservation of health in men of every age, and of every country, is proved alike by experiment and by observation. To the student it may be considered the most certain safeguard against all those diseases which result from intellectual exhaustion. Inactivity is the great bane of literary men. Under its influence digestion becomes impaired, the mental powers grow torpid and confused, the circulation is obstructed, the exhalation of the skin diminished, and the whole system debilitated. We cannot, in fine, sufficiently impress on the mind of the student, the truth of the well known maxim—*it is easier to rust out than to wear out*; a maxim which applies with equal force to the faculties of the body and the mind.

Exercise, taken in moderate degree and at proper times, is the best of all means for restoring the body to vigour, and relieving the mind from that weariness which always follows long continued application. Not only does it serve to interrupt the current of the thoughts, and direct the ideas into a new channel, but it has the more important power of equalizing the circulation, and thus counteracting that tendency to the brain, the effects of which were alluded to in our general remarks, and are only developed when the evil has existed too long and is too deeply rooted to be easily removed. By increasing too the power of the muscles, and diminishing the nervous sensibility, exercise maintains that just balance of all the bodily forces, which is necessary to health, comfort, and strength.

The advantages of exercise are not however confined to the body. By regulating the circulation of the brain, it refreshes the intellectual powers, and gives to them a spirit and sprightliness, which can be derived from no other source. Especially is this the case when it is taken in a tranquil situation, as, for example, in the country, in the midst of agreeable objects, and where Nature appears in her most attractive form.—There is more in the scene and circumstance of exercise than is generally imagined; and every one who observes accurately and meditates on this subject, must agree with Pliny the younger, who has particularly mentioned how much the motion of the body increases the activity of the mind, and how the shade of forests, and the profound silence which is necessary to the enjoyment of the chase, tend to excite in the mind the most invigorating as well as the most delightful emotions.

Moderate exercise, though it serves to refresh the mind, by no means precludes a simultaneous action of some of the intellectual faculties. The memory and imagination are frequently most lively, while the body is in motion; and our most delicious reveries are those which occupy us in our morning or our evening walks. But these are not the occasions for serious and close application; the mind cannot easily fix itself on one subject and pursue steadily a course of abstract reasoning, while new objects are constantly presented, and new

associations tend continually to arise. These more serious considerations must be reserved for a period of retirement and repose; when the mind, satiated with external objects, can return to itself, and to that current of ideas, which for a time had been interrupted. Thus may activity and rest each become useful in its turn; and by regarding this regular alternation, the student may pursue his avocations with success, secure from all those miseries which ever attend on debility and disease.—“It is a pitiable mistake,” says Rousseau, “to suppose that the exercise of the body can interfere with the operations of the mind; as if the powers of both were not intended to become useful to their possessor.” We acknowledge that while toiling up a rocky precipice or indulging in any amusement connected with bodily labor, the student is making no new acquisitions; but we maintain, that even then, his mind is gaining that freshness and elastic power which had been lost by intense study, and which must be restored occasionally in order that the final object of his exertions may be obtained.

While we thus recommend moderate exercise, we would caution the student against indulging in violent exertions of the body, or continuing them for too long a time. Heat, fatigue, or profuse perspiration, are always injurious. That exercise may be useful, it must be daily, regular, and sufficient to maintain and gently to increase the insensible perspiration; for the interruption of this process is often attended by the most serious consequences, and if it do not itself produce diseases, will certainly aggravate those which usually result from studious and inactive habits.

VENTRILOQUISM.

There is no exhibition professedly designed for rational amusement, which is so universally believed to be the result of an extraordinary gift of nature, as that of ventriloquism. But this is doubtless a mere hoax; for of forty pretenders to the art, who daily or rather nightly pick the pockets of the public, a very few indeed are regularly organized ventriloquists. That there are persons who have the faculty of modulating in the pharynx a few sounds analogous to labials, by acquiring a peculiar power over the *velum pendulum palati*, we do not pretend to deny; but the very idea of conveying the voice, or its sonorous rays, from the performer's vocal organs, to different parts of a room, a by-stander's pocket, or to another apartment, is as ridiculous as it is impossible.

In the first vol. of the Medical Intelligencer, page 29, we endeavoured to give a minute relation of the organic structure of the throat, and particularly explained the phenomena of ventriloquism when it actually exists. Subsequent researches have convinced us most fully of the extreme deception which is too frequently practised upon those of our fellow-beings who are always on the tenters to hear and to see something that is unaccountable. Our constant devotion to anatomical pursuits, has prompted us to improve every opportunity of witnessing these exhibitions, with the sole object of understanding the rationale; and in our rounds, we have heard Mr. Charles, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Mathews, Mr. Potter, and Mr. Taylor, besides about two dozen Frenchmen, Italians, &c. and are constrained to say, that we are fully persuaded the business is an imposition upon those who suppose the art to be the innate property of all the individuals who pretend to it. To imitate the singing of birds, the crowing of a cock, the barking of a dog, &c. although amusing enough for the

moment, is more frequently done with much more accuracy by those waggish boys and men who haunt the pits and galleries of theatres, to the great annoyance of well bred people, than by professed ventriloquists.

PROFESSIONAL HONESTY.

The following interesting extracts in relation to the remains of the celebrated Sicilian dwarf, which has attracted so much attention in London, the present season, are taken from an article received through a foreign journal.

Mr. Lewis Fogle, who applied to F. A. Roe, Esq. the presiding magistrate, for a warrant to apprehend a Dr. Gilligan, stated that he was the father of the extraordinary child, called the Sicilian dwarf, that has lately been exhibited in London, and whose sudden and melancholy death has thrown himself and his wife into the greatest grief. Mr. Fogle said, that he has for a considerable time past resided in the city of Dublin; and, until a short time ago, the child resided with himself and his wife in that capital; but, having there become acquainted with Dr. Gilligan, that gentleman represented the climate of that country as too cold for the child's constitution, which was then beginning to be rather impaired, and recommended the immediate removal of the child to England, as a more congenial air, and, if that change did not produce the desired effect, ultimately to remove her to the continent; and the doctor professed to take such a peculiar interest in the health and welfare of the child, that he offered his services to accompany her on her travels, and pay the necessary attentions to her health, provided the parents would consent to his exhibiting her during the short stay they were likely to make in London. The parents, from their professional engagements, being precluded from the possibility of accompanying their child, and having the utmost confidence in the talents and integrity of Dr. Gilligan, consented to these terms; the more particularly, as the doctor represented that his object in exhibiting the child was not so much the gain likely to arise from it, but, as a man of science, he was anxious that such an extraordinary phenomenon should not be lost to the physiological world. Dr. Gilligan accordingly set out with the child, and arrived in London about two months ago, where he hired lodgings for himself and his interesting charge in Duke-street, St. James', and resided there until about a fortnight ago, when, unhappily, the child died. This melancholy event Dr. Gilligan never communicated to the parents; nor indeed had they heard any thing from him since his departure from Dublin, and the tidings of their interesting child's death they only learned through the medium of the public papers which reached Dublin. Mr. Fogle said that the sudden account of her child's death threw the mother into the most melancholy and agonizing grief, and he himself set off instantly for London, with a view to take charge of the child's remains, and have them properly interred. Immediately after his arrival he went to the house where he understood the child was exhibited, in Bond-street, and there he was referred to the address in Duke-street, St. James'; but on his making inquiry at this latter place for the doctor, he was informed that the day after the child's death he disappeared, taking the remains with him, and has never since returned,

leaving a debt of £25 due at the house for lodgings, &c. All his exertions, Mr. Fogle said, had failed to procure any intelligence of the doctor's destination, or how he had disposed of the remains of his child; but he had been informed that Dr. Gilligan was heard to say in the lifetime of the child, that some members of the College of Surgeons had offered him, if any misfortune should occur to cause the child's death, five hundred pounds for the body, for the purpose of dissection, and to put amongst their collections of extraordinary instances of the whims and freaks of nature.

Mr. Roe did not feel himself justified in granting his warrant; and recommended Mons. Fogle and his friends to make inquiries of the parochial officers of St. James', and in all probability it might lead to a discovery of the infant. They immediately acted upon the worthy magistrate's suggestions, and communicated with the gentlemen of the parish upon the subject, but could learn nothing satisfactory of the child. The unhappy father next went to the house of Mr. Dorlan, the tailor, where Gilligan occupied a splendid suite of apartments; he was accompanied by his wife, and her brother, a Mr. King, an actor belonging to the Dublin Theatre. Mr. Dorlan informed him that they left Monday se'night, and that he could give no tidings of their destination. All that they left behind was the little state bed of the child, and its habit, which he (Mr. Dorlan,) had manufactured for it, to be presented to the king. From thence, Mr. Fogle went to Mr. Brooks', at Blenheim steps, and there ascertained that Gilligan had offered the body of the little creature to him at the price of 100 guineas! but that the negotiation did not take place. The poor father, in a state of distraction, next repaired to the other places of anatomy, and met with the same success: he also went to the different public hospitals, where he was shown all the subjects, but could not identify the body of his tiny offspring. He was now so overwhelmed with grief that he burst into tears, and again returned to Mr. Dorlan's, who took an active part in endeavouring to find out the little creature; and, from some circumstances, he advised Mr. Fogle to wait upon Sir Everard Home, at his house in Sackville-street. Thither he went, and saw Sir Everard. Of course, they were strangers to each other. Sir Everard, on seeing him, said, “Oh, you come from Gilligan, about the dwarf; the surgeons have not yet held a meeting, therefore I can't say what sum will be voted to him.” The feelings of the unhappy father, upon this salute, may be more readily conceived than described, and in a flood of tears he told Sir Everard that he was the father of the little creature. Sir Everard was astonished at this intelligence, but ultimately an explanation took place. It appeared that on Monday se'night, Gilligan, who was acquainted with Sir Everard, through whose influence the prodigy had been presented to the king, called at his house with the body of the child, and expressed a wish to dispose of it. Sir Everard refused to purchase it, but said he would present it to the College of Surgeons, and whatever reward they thought proper to vote him should be given him. Gilligan agreed to this, and left the child, saying that he was going out of town, but would send a friend in a few days for the gratuity. He then went away, and when poor Fogle

entered the room, Sir Everard considered that he was the man that had been sent by Gilligan, which led to Sir Everard's mentioning the name of the child. The poor father implored Sir Everard to grant him a look at his beloved infant, and that he should then leave this world happy. Sir Everard instantly complied, and gave him an order to see it at the College of Surgeons, and presented him with a check on his banker for ten pounds, at the same time promising to represent the unfortunate business to his Majesty.

Mons. Fogle, in a state bordering on insanity, hastened to Surgeon's Hall, where he arrived almost breathless, thinking he might prevent his child from being anatomised. But alas!—it was too late. He was shown into a room, wherein the first thing that caught his view, was the body of his darling progeny, mangled in a most shocking manner. He clasped the corpse in his arms in a manner that excited the feelings of all present, and it was with difficulty that he could be prevailed upon to leave the room, which, however, he did, upon the gentlemen promising him that nothing further would be done to the infant. M. Fogle left London immediately by the Liverpool coach for Ireland, to communicate the dreadful intelligence to his wife.

INTELLIGENCE.

MEDICAL FACULTY OF BERKS CO. PENN.—The practising physicians of this county, having associated and become a body politic in law, under the above style and title, met on the 7th inst. and duly organized their institution.—Dr. Isaac Hiester was called to the chair, and Dr. Charles Baum appointed Secretary. The charter and by-laws having been read, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:—Isaac Hiester, M. D. President; C. L. Schlemm, M. D. John B. Otto, M. D. Vice-Presidents; Charles Baum, M. D. Recording Secretary; William J. C. Baum, M. D. Edward Haydock, M. D. Corresponding Secretaries; George Eckert, M. D. Treasurer; Dr. Bernard McNeil, Dr. Gerh. G. Bishop, Curators.

The President delivered a short address to the association, and then proceeded, agreeably to the by-laws, to appoint a standing committee of three members for the examination of candidates for the grade of junior membership. The following gentlemen compose the committee:—C. L. Schlemm, M. D. John B. Otto, M. D. and Charles Baum, M. D.

CASTLETON MEDICAL SCHOOL.—Doctor Gallup, of Woodstock, Vt. having resigned the professorship of the Theory and Practice of Physic in the Medical School at Castleton, and accepted a similar situation in the Medical School at Burlington, has published a long and bitter tale of the ill treatment and indignities which he suffered from the trustees, before his resignation. Dr. Gallup's memoir confirms us in the belief that the Castleton concern has been a catch-penny thing, thus far, and that *cash* has been the principal desire with most of its champions. Students had better examine the law in relation to the conferring of degrees, as Dr. G. hints something about *illegality*, which is not to be winked at.

MALIGNANT FEVER.—Several cases of Typho-bilious fever have occurred in Portland, and we believe also in Portsmouth, this season, which have been sudden in their attack, and in some instances proved fatal in the course of from 24 to 72 hours. It has been characterized by severe pain in the back and head, distress in the stomach and bowels, suffusion of the eyes, &c. In some cases, coma and delirium existed from the beginning; in others, a complete prostration of the animal powers was noticed, with hemorrhage from the mouth, nose, &c. and these usually terminated fatally either in vomiting a dark bilious matter, or in diarrhoea.—It is not contagious.

Several cases of Yellow Fever have occurred at Charleston, S. C.;—the disease does not appear to be very rife, but there is reason to think it will become so.

PUBLIC HEALTH.—The health of the interior parts of our country seems again to be menaced. The following article from the Winchester (Virginia) Republican, indicates considerable alarm; and by private letters from Ohio, we fear, that in the noble regions of the west, the pestilence is again abroad.—*N. Y. Amer.*

As a fatal sickness is now prevailing along most of our water courses, we recommend it to our fellow citizens—our townsman more particularly, to abstain from visiting these infected places as much as possible. The disease is not communicated by the sick; so that the services of those on the spot can be extended with perfect safety. But it is hoped that those whom pleasure or curiosity may invite abroad, will remember this caution. The town is healthy.

HEALTH OF CONNECTICUT.—Thus far, the State has been uncommonly healthy for the season, though there are scattered cases of fever, dysentery, cholera, &c. but no epidemics. There have been a few slight cases of spotted fever. The towns which suffered from this disease the last year, are remarkably healthy.

MEDICAL DEGREES.—At the Commencement at Dartmouth College, the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on James Babb, Francis Dana Bartlett, Josiah Bartlett, Thomas Bassett, Lemuel Maxey Barker, Ephraim Carpenter, Dixie Crosby, Oliver Everett, Seth Field, Enoch Goss, Galen Hunter, Elisha Hatch, George Washington Hammond, Josiah Howe, Moses Hibbard, Charles Knowlton, Timothy Livingston Lane, Wilson Merrill, Noah Martin, Moses Ford Morrison, Bradley Noyes, John McNabb, Bradley Parker, Ebenezer Porter, Joel Stanwood Stevens, Ralph Thacher, Isaac Varney, Augustus Willard.

LITHOTOMY.—Dr. James Webster, jr. of Philadelphia, a gentleman only twenty years of age, performed the operation of lithotomy, successfully, three weeks ago, on a boy two and a half years old. The child, so says our correspondent, has perfectly recovered.

GOOD'S STUDY OF MEDICINE.—Dr. Good will speedily publish a new edition of this celebrated work, with many alterations and improvements.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Ending August 27th, from the Health-Office Returns.

August 22d.—Margaret Young, 34; Oliver Wyman, 10 mo.; Susan L. Eaton, 2; John Jarvis; Jonathan Jones, 62; Charles Beeton, 2; Eliza Carrey, 38. 23d.—Sophia Shanley; Silas Garret, 50; Rosamund Draper, 8; Abner Kimball Kent, 18 mo. 24th.—Mary B. Lawrence, 5 mo.; James Amory Perkins, 10; Susan H. Safford, 7; Elizabeth Whitney, 21. 25th.—Jane Emmersley, 22; Dorothy Borrowshale, 2; Mary C. Hayden, 3; Richard Henewell, 32. 26th.—Benjamin Hoyt Prescott, 20 mo. 27th.—Isaac Butterfield, 11 mo.; John Mackfield, 50; Sarah Daniels, 7 mo.

Typhus Fever, 1—Dropsy, 1—Dysentery, 6—Infantile, 1—Drowned, 1—Dropsy in the Head, 3—Bilious Fever, 3—Consumption, 3—Suffocation, 1—Disorder in the Head, 1—Cholera Morbus, 1.

Died, at Marietta, Penn. Dr James A. Boggs, after a protracted illness, in the 22d year of his age.

Berkshire Medical Institution, Connected with Williams College.

THE Annual Course of Medical Lectures in this Institution will commence on the second Wednesday of September, and continue fifteen weeks.—JOHN P. BATCHELDER, M. D. on Surgery, Anat. and Physiol. as subservient to the Theory and Practice of Medicine and Surgery. JEROME V. C. SMITH, M. D. on General Anatomy and Physiology. HENRY H. CHILDS, M. D. on Theory and Practice of Medicine. JOHN DELEMATTER, M. D. on Mat. Med. Pharmacy and Obstetrics. Prof. DREWY on Chymistry, Botany, Mineralogy, Nat. and Experimental Philosophy. STEPHEN W. WILLIAMS, M. D. on Medical Jurisprudence.

Since the last season, the lecture rooms have been enlarged, and the apartments for students thoroughly repaired. The commons-house is a very convenient and elegant building, in which the trustees have made arrangements for boarding, washing and lodging, for

the reasonable sum of dol. 1,75 per week, including rent. Fees for all the lectures 40 dollars. A perpetual ticket for admission to the lectures on Anatomy, 25 dollars. Tuition for a resident student of the Institution, exclusive of the lectures, for one year, 50 dollars. Tickets for admission to the lectures on Chymistry, Botany, Mineralogy and Experimental Philosophy, 6 dols. Gentlemen who have received the degree of Doctor of Medicine, or those who have attended two full courses of lectures at any incorporated School, and Fellows of the Massachusetts Med. Society, are admitted gratuitously. The lectures upon Anatomy are given every morning at 10 o'clock, throughout the whole term, and while the demonstrations in Osteology continue, the students will be furnished with every thing necessary to facilitate their anatomical pursuits in their own rooms. The museum of the Institution, to which the students have free access, is constituted of a great variety of superior wax models, exhibiting most of the minute parts of the human body, valued at several thousand dollars; arterial preparations and various rare specimens of morbid anatomy, wet preparations, &c, which have been selected with great care and expense, besides nearly 2000 valuable specimens in mineralogy.

Degrees are conferred at the close of the lecture term, and at the annual commencement of Williams College. The examination of candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine, is conducted by the Faculty of the Institution, composed of all the Professors, and two delegates from the State Med. Society. As these examinations are private and confidential, if the person offering himself should be unsuccessful, it will never be known that he has been examined; on the contrary, if successful, he will receive a certificate of his qualification from the Dean of the Faculty, directed to the President and Trustees of Williams College, for which he is required to pay 12 dollars. Any gentleman who has attended one course of lectures in any regularly established medical school, and a second course in this Institution, will be admitted to an examination for a degree.—For the purpose of giving the students every opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of the collateral branches of medical science, a Lyceum of Natural History has been established, in connection with the Institution, which holds its meetings once a week, during the lecture-term.

New-Hampshire Medical School.

THE Medical Institution of the State of New-Hampshire has been established at Hanover, in connection with Dartmouth College. The Medical College is a brick edifice three stories high, containing two large Lecture Halls, a Chymical Laboratory with a full apparatus and a large Cabinet of Minerals, an extensive and valuable museum of Anatomy, a Medical Library of a few hundred volumes, which is annually increasing, and several rooms for students.

The annual course of Lectures commences two weeks after the College Commencement, (this year on Thursday, the 2d of September,) and continues fourteen weeks. Four lectures are delivered daily, and frequently five and even six, on the following branches, viz:—Anatomy, Surgery and Obstetrics, by R. D. MUSEY, M. D. Theory and Practice of Physic, Physiol. and Mat. Med. by D. OLIVER, M.D. Chymistry, Pharmacy and Legal Medicine, by J. F. DANA, Esq.—Fees for all the courses 50 dollars. Boarding may be obtained for dol. 1,25.

To Teachers of Anatomy and Surgery.

THE Subscriber is engaged in making a Magnified Brain, from four to five feet round, in plaster and wax, minutely accurate, and naturally coloured, exhibiting the origin of the cerebral nerves. It revolves upon an axis, admirably calculated for demonstration to a large class, at a distance from the demonstrator.—Gentlemen desirous of securing one of these, are requested to forward their orders immediately. Price 40 dollars, without the arteries, and with them, 50 dollars.

School-street, Boston.

H. WILLIAMS.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER:

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BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1824.

No. 17.

OBSERVATIONS.

PATENT DOCTORS.

In a former number we spoke of the injurious consequences likely to result from the patronage given to charlatanism by the government of the United States.—Every day exposes to us some new reason to regret the existence, among an intelligent people, of the dangerous custom of patenting quack medicines. It seems by the following interesting LAW CASE, that this right is extended farther than we had supposed, and that *patent doctors* are likely soon to become as common as are those detestable things called *patent medicines*.

RUNYAN vs. REW & PARSONS.

The suit was brought against the defendants for mal-practice. They were not regularly licensed physicians, or, as it was expressed by their witness on the trial, "they did not belong to the standing order, but were practising under a license from the United States." The license from the United States, under which they claimed the right to practise physic, was an assignment of a patent granted to one Thompson, giving to him and his assigns, the exclusive right of making, using, and vending certain medicines or remedies, designated by numbers, and particularly described in the specification. One of the defendants was a farmer at the time he purchased the right, and commenced the practice of physic under the patent; and neither had ever made the science of medicine a regular study.

A son of the plaintiff, nineteen or twenty years of age, was attacked with the lumbago, or an acute pain across the loins, occasioned by sudden exposure to rain, after lifting hard in building a log fence. The defendant commenced by bathing his loins with the patent medicine, No. 6, sometimes called rheumatic drops, and composed of spirits of turpentine, pulverized cayenne pepper, gum myrrh, gum camphor, and spirits of wine. Their fomentation was also aided by the application of a red hot shovel to his back, which occasionally came in contact with and burned the skin. While this powerful embrocation was applied to his back, they gave the patient internally some red drops, (probably No. 4, pulverized cayenne pepper,) which from the peculiar name given to them, as well as from their taste, were admirably calculated to remind him of the future torments of the wicked in another world. They next gave him five cups of hot tea, (No. 5, a strong decoction of ginseng root and baberry bark) and raised the steam upon the patient by surrounding him with hot stones and pouring water thereon. After steaming the patient about an hour he was put to bed. By this time he had entirely lost all sense of feeling in both legs, and a strangury had also been produced. In this situation the young man was left by the defendants, and they were not again called; though one of them afterwards declared, that if they had been permitted to attend him, they could have restored the perfect use of his limbs, by a continued application of the same remedies. The day after the defendants left him, a licensed physician, and soon after a sec-

ond, were called to attend him. At the expiration of three weeks the young man recovered the sense of feeling in his limbs, and the strangury was removed about the same time; it was six months before he was able to walk, and at the trial he hobbled into court upon crutches.—It appeared that No. 6, (the rheumatic drops,) had been administered by the persons practising under the patent, in cases of rheumatism, typhus fever, nervous fever, dropsy in the chest, palsy, convulsion fits, and for a common cough. The defendants had, in one case of typhus fever, administered some of the patent drops as a cathartic; but whether it was the rheumatic drops, the baberry tea, or the pulverized cayenne pepper, did not appear. In this last case of typhus fever, the defendants had steamed the patient, (a boy,) constantly for a week. While the steam was at its height, one of the defendants said he must now go to the full extent of the patent, and immediately caused the patient to be stripped naked and drenched with cold water. The boy's sister was in the act of coming to see him, and met one of the defendants near the door, who had just left him. The defendant informed the sister that her brother was doing well and in a fair way of recovery; but before she got into the house he was dead. Whether his death was occasioned by the fault of the engineer in raising the steam too high, or by condensing the steam too suddenly, by the application of the cold water, has never been ascertained.

A witness on the part of the defendants, who called himself a *doctor*, but said he did not belong to the *standing order*, testified that he was well acquainted with the rheumatic drops, (No. 6.) He had made for sale twenty or thirty gallons of the same kind of medicine, and had frequently used it, and always with success. The practice of the defendants in the case of the plaintiff's son was perfectly proper; and he had no doubt if they had been permitted to continue the use of No. 6, with the baberry tea and the application of steam, the patient would have been restored to health in a very short time.—The natural effect of the medicine was, first to destroy the use of his limbs, and then by a continuation of the same treatment, to restore them to a healthy state. This *doctor* then detailed at length, to the court and jury, an instance of a most remarkable cure which he had effected by the same kind of practice.

The *doctor* was called to a lady who had a nervous fever, and found her apparently in the last agonies. When he arrived she was speechless, and the blood had settled under her nails. He immediately forced her to swallow a little of No. 6, and then raised the steam upon her, and kept it up until she revived. He then continued to steam her day and night for three weeks, and caused her to drink during the same time, six quarts daily of No. 5, (the baberry tea;) and at the expiration of the three weeks the lady was restored to perfect health. Several times during that period the attendants suffered the steam to go down, which had well nigh cost the patient her life. At one of these times she was

so far gone on the arrival of the doctor, that there was no life remaining except in one foot; but immediately on administering No. 6, and raising the steam, life was restored to the rest of her body, and he finally accomplished her cure as above stated.*

On his cross examination, the *doctor* stated he had no license to practice, under the authority of this state or of any other state, but he had a license to practice under the government of the United States, and he thereupon produced a copy of the patent and license from Thompson, authorizing him to practice under the same.—The *doctor* said he had never studied with any licensed physician, but had learned the business from a patent doctor at Passamaquoddy, who told him he obtained his information from another in New-Hampshire. Physicians practising under the state authority had sometimes been called in to consult with the *doctor* in critical cases; and in one case in particular, a physician of Geneva had been called in, who did not treat him civilly; and in consequence of that, the *doctor* cut his company, and would have nothing to do with him.

Two physicians of the standing order, were called as witnesses, but neither of them were acquainted with the steam practice, or knew anything of the rare properties of No. 6, as a medicine; they supposed the practice of the defendant had injured the patient.

The Judge who tried the cause must be a great stickler for state right; for in his charge to the jury, he intimated his opinion pretty strongly, that a patent from the United States could not make a good physician of a man who never had seen a medical book; and moreover that it would not even authorize the defendant to practice in violation of the laws of New-York. And although the Judge admitted that the decision of the United States Court rendered the use of steam free, so far as relates to the propelling of boats, yet he seemed to think that decision could not be extended to a case like the present. And as the patent under which the defendants claimed did not expressly authorize them to practice upon the high pressure principle, it would be, (especially after the recent disaster at New-York) unwise and improper for the Courts to sanction such a practice:—and the jury found a verdict for the plaintiff for \$220 damages.

HEALTH OF AUGUSTA, (GEO.)

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer.

Although the weather has been more oppressively warm, and the heat has continued longer than ever before in this place, the thermometer (Fahrenheit's) ranging for many days in succession from 90 to 101 degrees, Augusta has been much healthier the present year than for many years past, perhaps than ever in any previous year.

* This case puts in jeopardy the opinion of every enlightened, and we had thought of every unenlightened physician of the age, and completely puts down the axiom that death commences at the extremities, and proceeds towards the heart.

From the improvement of the health of the city, following the recent exertions made by its police, both in the town and its vicinity, we are induced to believe that we have only to look to these facts to account for the superior healthiness of the city on very rational principles.—Hitherto there had been, in the immediate vicinity of the town, many large ponds and reservoirs of stagnant water, which exhaled an extremely deleterious miasma; the public lands skirting the southern boundary of the city and within its site, had always been rented out and kept in cultivation; little attention was paid to cleansing the streets; filth was suffered to accumulate and water to remain and stagnate in them; the cellars too, often contained water of the depth of several feet.

These certain and effectual causes of disease have, by the late praiseworthy exertions of our police, been prevented from extending widely their baneful influence. Those vast reservoirs of stagnant water have been drained. Those extensive plains, of hitherto cultivated land, are now converted into a beautiful grass-plot, which not only improves the scenery of the city, but adds to the salubrity of the atmosphere. The streets are kept clean, and constantly drained by gutters dug through the centre of them; the cellars are also kept dry, and those miasmatic stenches hitherto so common, are now not known.

Notwithstanding these local improvements have considerably advanced the health of the city, the intense heat for a month or six weeks past has been the cause of a mortality which would not probably have occurred in a season of usual temperature. All the cases of bilious fever that came under my observation, were evidently caused by too great excitement of the biliary system in consequence of extreme heat;—and no case has occurred within my knowledge, which could be traced to insalubrity of atmosphere. The few cases of fever that have happened, have been among those who were much exposed to the influence of the sun, especially among the blacks, and neither of the cases of death from bilious fever, recorded below, were contracted in Augusta; one originated in a steamboat some 50 or 100 miles below, and being from the fourth to the seventh day of his disease in an open boat coming to Augusta: the other arose on the road 60 or 70 miles distant, and the traveller was obliged to ride to town on horseback, fully exposed to the sun for two days, in a state of extreme febrile excitement; and each died about 36—48 hours after their arrival here.

A statement of the deaths that occurred during the last three months, with the diseases of which they were the consequence, as registered on the sexton's book, will demonstrate the health of the place.

In May—by accident, 1—old age, 1—diseases not recorded, 4—Blacks, 4 - - - 10
In June—worms, 2—dysentery, 2—consumption, 1—sudden death, 1—disease not recorded, 1—Blacks, 8 - - - 17
In July—dysentery, 1—bilious fever, 2—fits following intemperance at 77 years of age, 1—in child-bed, 1—sudden deaths, 3—diseases not recorded, 3—Blacks, 13 - - 24
Making a total in the three months of 51.

The number of deaths from January 1st, for 1821, 2, 3, and 1824 to July 31st, are as follows.

This summary includes both whites and blacks.

1821, deaths 133	1823, deaths 103
1822, " 119	1824, " 96

The decrease of the number of deaths, considered in connection with the rapid increase of population, (100 per cent for every fourteen years,) makes the *actual* decrease of the number of deaths, and the improvement in health, very considerable; and it is worthy of remark, that this favourable state of things is owing not to natural changes, but the vigilance of our police.

Augusta, August, 1824. E.

SEPTEMBER.

The month is now commenced in which of all others we should guard against the attacks of disease; for, in no month is the system better prepared to be influenced by slight causes of derangement, and at no season are those causes more abundant. Fruits become so common that they are eaten to excess, when even a moderate use of them should not be allowed to the young or the debilitated. Fruit, in the summer season, is not only innoxious but healthy; for the system has been so braced by the atmosphere and the drier food of winter, that the cooling fruits of summer act beneficially by producing an openness of the primæ viæ, and a freshness of the system, which allows all its operations to go on with freedom, unchecked by the vascular repletion which would else be the direct effect of the increased temperature of the season, and unimpeded by that oppression which is so commonly generated by the artificial ways of civilized life. Since, however, the powers of digestion are perfect in but a small number of persons who reside in countries which are far advanced in luxurious habits, it is not wonderful that a continuance of relaxing, watery, innutritious food, like fruit, should, towards the autumn, be as injurious to the system, as in summer it was acceptable and salutary. By the continued heat of the summer season we are predisposed to diseases of the bowels, and those diseases can only be prevented, and that predisposition overcome, by a warm and bracing diet, and the occasional use of good old wine or weak brandy and water. Fruit, therefore, should now be taken sparingly, and the regimen be adapted to the circumstances we have hinted at.

The great cause however of the dysentery and other complaints of a similar nature, which are usually rife among us in September and October, is the difference between the temperature of the day, and that of the evening and morning. During July and August, persons acquire the custom of walking and sitting in the open air with the same clothing, and the same carelessness, as in their parlors, and with their heads frequently uncovered. The delightful sensations produced by the mildness of a day in September, leads them to anticipate the same refreshing walks as they have enjoyed in summer, and without much regard to health, they thoughtlessly indulge in them. The consequence is that they are caught from home shivering and shaking with unexpected cold; they regret the want of an additional garment, and hasten home with all possible expedition, but not however without a cold, or perhaps the seeds of the dysentery or a fever. That these prevailing disorders of the season may be avoided, we take the liberty to advise our friends never to depart far from their usual residence in the morning or evening, in September, without an additional garment—to use a warm, tonic, and nourishing diet—and at night never to retire without an extra blanket at the bedside.

This is a famous month too for travelling. Great numbers of persons go from home to attend the different Commencements and Military Reviews. Students and Instructors of Schools and Colleges have a vacation about this time, and wisely employ it in ranging the country for amusement, information, or health; and that they may ensure a new stock of the latter, or even preserve that with which they start, we will assure them that in no situation are persons more exposed to the evils resulting from change of weather, than in travelling. If the aforesaid outer garment be left behind, and no public house is at hand, however warm and delightful may be their ride during the day, a change will surely take place in the course of the afternoon, and the sun will in all probability go down upon their sorrow, and rise again upon their bitter repentance. To such as are travelling, therefore, our precautions are particularly applicable, though to all we wish to recommend them.

YELLOW-FEVER.

We were peculiarly gratified by the interesting communication on the subject of this disease which was concluded in our last, and doubt not its value, in a practical point of view, will be appreciated by our readers. Among the many remedies which have been from time to time recommended as specifics for yellow-fever, we remember none the use of which has appeared to be founded so well on the sound doctrines of pathology, as that of the peruvian bark.

We have long entertained the belief that the most philosophical method of treating diseases which appear exclusively in hot weather, is to ascertain the mode in which hot weather affects the system, and, by applying remedies which counteract this influence, to protect or relieve our patients from those disorders to which they are liable at no other time than whilst affected by it.—Now it is well known that the tendency of hot weather is to relax and debilitate the stomach and the whole frame. Every man feels this to be true. How then can we better attack the diseases of summer than by removing that state of the system on which they depend, by counteracting relaxation and debility!—Bruce relates that in the diseases of Africa, bark is the sine-qua-non of successful treatment, as may be seen by the following extracts from his interesting book of travels. After speaking of those maladies, he says—

There is no remedy so sovereign here as the bark; but it must be given in very different times and manners from those pursued in Europe. Were a physician to take time to prepare his patient for his bark, by first giving him purgatives, he would be dead of the fever before his preparation was completed.

I know that all this is heterodox in Europe, and contrary to the practice, because it is contrary to system. For my own part, I am content to write faithfully what I carefully observed, leaving every body afterwards to follow their own way at their peril.

It is on this principle we have long been in the habit of managing with success the diseases of hot weather; and we have found the vomiting and purging, the fever, and even the delirium of cholera morbus, to yield more readily and more uniformly to brandy and bark than to any other remedies.

It is not many years since we were placed in the midst of a highly contagious and fatal epidemic. We then took constantly large quantities of bark every day, —we mixed it with our tea and coffee morning and

evening—and carried a phial of the tincture in our pockets, to take as we entered the chambers of the sick. It was to this precaution we had every reason to attribute our entire escape from the disease, though we were daily attending great numbers who were exceedingly ill; and we have no doubt that not only the best preventive, but the most successful practice in yellow-fever, must be that which is based upon the same principle.

DISORDERS OF LITERARY MEN.—NO. XI.

The most distinguished philosophers of antiquity have recommended exercise as well by their example, as by precept. We know that SOCRATES delivered his instructions while walking, and as these were mostly conveyed by conversation, this plan was the most philosophical which he could have adopted. Dancing was another amusement of this philosopher; but observing that those who devoted themselves to dancing had their lower limbs developed at the expense of the upper, he practised fencing also, with a view to restrain, and in a degree counteract this tendency. It was the habit of PLATO to lecture whilst strolling through the groves of Academus, and a large part of his long life was spent in travelling. CICERO frequently dictated portions of his works whilst walking for exercise. PLUTARCH was not only in the habit of exercise, but recommended it strongly to all as a means of preserving health, and in a particular manner to Men of Letters. SENECA condemned violent exercise, both for its direct effect in causing fatigue, and because, by occasioning a voracious appetite, it leads to excessive repletion. On the other hand, he advised running, leaping, and other similar amusements, suited to the strength, habits, and inclination of each individual. MILTON was fond of military exercise. ROUSSEAU preferred walking, and represents with equal force and justice, how large a proportion of the evils which students suffer, might be avoided, were this habit once established and regularly maintained. So also did the wise and witty RADCLIFFE;—Pope we all know was a man of great application; he was sick and Dr. Radcliffe was consulted. The Doctor sent down to Windsor Forest for Mr. Pope to come up to him, and on his arrival gave him the following advice—"Apply less, and ride every day;" he did so, and recovered.

In the use of exercise several circumstances are to be regarded, and judgment should be used in determining its kind, and the time and situation in which it should be taken.

1st. Kind. There are various kinds of sports and games which require bodily exertion, and which thereby form useful means of mental relaxation to the student. Among these we may mention riding on horseback, fencing, walking, and the games of ball, bowls, and billiards; to these we would add turning and joining as calculated for those who possess a mechanical genius; and lastly, agricultural labour. From these and many others, a selection may be made according to inclination and circumstances; all of them are useful, so far as they can be made to contribute to amusement and to health.

2d. Time. It is proper to remark, that the best time for general and active exercise, is before meals; after we have taken food, much bodily exertion interferes with digestion. On the other hand, the hour succeeding a meal is not the time for study; it were best therefore to employ it in such light and gentle exercise as may amuse without inducing any sense of fatigue. By

this means the whole power of the system may be devoted to the digestive process, and this will go on in the most perfect and effectual manner. Three or four hours at least should be daily devoted to some species of bodily exertion. The time we here prescribe for exercise and relaxation, is, we are aware, an important sacrifice to a scholar. The habitual student becomes attached to study;—it is his mistress. But it is wrong for a man to devote himself so entirely to his mistress as to destroy his own health. We are aware too that men of letters are in haste to arrive at the height of their hopes and their ambition; let them go slowly on and they will make more rapid progress. *Festina Lente*—let this be their motto; and if they love study ever so well, they will often leave it for bodily exercise.

*Durum; sed levius fit patientia,
Quidquid NEGLIGERE est nefas.*

3d. Situation. It is important that exercise should be taken in a healthy situation; in the open air, and above all, removed from the influence of any noxious miasm. The room too of the student should be spacious and well ventilated. He should guard himself from sudden changes of temperature, and from exposure, when warm, to a current of air such as to check the perspiration. Such a practice would in any one be imprudent and dangerous; but to the literary man, all whose habits tend to relax the frame, it must be attended with the most injurious consequences.

Finally,—there is a moral precaution, of equal importance to any thing we have mentioned. There are men who are naturally inclined to sadness and melancholy; to whom a walk, so far from affording any relaxation, is only an occasion for anxious and gloomy meditation. To such men we recommend to avoid solitary rambles; and by social intercourse to drive away those thoughts which only exhaust the body and the mind. We cannot better close this part of our subject than by referring our readers to the *Eloge de Roussel*, by M. Alibert, Part 1, Chap. 7, where he both describes the evil and suggests the remedy.

REPORTS.

EMPALEMENT.

A person by the name of Tipple, took off the bridle before unharnessing his horse, in consequence of which the animal plunged forward and forced the shaft through the chest of Mr. Tipple from right to left, just under the arms; the point of the shaft was then forced through the outer and inner boardings of the chaise-house, a space of $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The man thus remained transfixed, and in some degree suspended, until three farriers who happened to be passing by, heard his cries and went to his assistance. They soon extricated him, placing his hand on the end of the shaft, by which he was empaled, to draw his body off; he then walked up two pair of stairs to bed. Under the bold and judicious treatment of his medical attendant, in twelve days he was considered free from danger; and in nine weeks the wounds were healed. Notwithstanding his irregular habits, (and his name!) he enjoyed for five years as good health as previously. After this time his mode of life induced repeated attacks of disease in the chest, and under one of these he recently died, ten years after the accident.

An accident of a similar nature recently occurred in Brattleboro', (Vt.) of which Dr. Dana Hyde, jun. of Guilford, gives the following account.

A boy about twelve years old, by the name of William Goat, was employed in stowing away rye on a scaffold of poles, over the great beams of the barn, when by the breaking of the front pole, he was precipitated upon one of the stakes of the cart, which entered the back part of his right thigh, four or five inches from the hip-joint, passed directly through the thigh, in a direction towards the body, and without coming out, passed under the groin, and up the body, (probably between the muscles and the cellular membrane,) nearly up to the breast-bone. The stake was nearly two inches in diameter—at least an inch and a quarter at the end, and cut square off. It entered his body nearly a foot, carrying before it a piece of his pantaloons and shirt, which have been extracted from the upper end of the wound. What renders the accident extraordinary is, that notwithstanding the extent of the wound, and that in the immediate vicinity of very important blood-vessels, he providentially escaped with life, and is now in a fair way of recovery.

ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE.

On the 28th of April last, M. Piorry was called to the *Hotel de la Bibliotheque*, where he found a man of athletic form and military appearance, in a state of complete insensibility. He had gone to bed in apparent tranquillity the night before, and was found, at a late hour next morning, lying on the ground, in the state above described. On examination, M. Piorry observed that the face was flushed, tumid, and the vessels injected—the lips livid—an ecchymosis on the left cheek—contused appearances on the neck—complete immobility—nausea, and vomiting of a frothy slime—tongue clean—respiration embarrassed—pulse frequent and strong—apparent abolition of sense—no answers to any questions.—M. Piorry naturally asked himself, what is the cause of all these phenomena? Has the patient experienced an attack of epilepsy? Has he attempted to strangle himself? Has he taken some poisonous substance? and, if so, what is the nature of that substance? These were questions which naturally occurred to the medical attendant, but were not easily resolved. Not knowing what to do, and in order to gain time, M. Piorry endeavoured to make the patient swallow some spoonfuls of sugar and water, but which were immediately vomited up. He next determined on opening a vein—a measure that was clearly indicated at all events;—but just as he was preparing for venesection, he observed that the patient opened his eyes a little. He reiterated his questions. The man lifted up, with difficulty, the right hand, and made a motion, as if turning a key of a door. It instantly struck the Doctor that the miserable man had swallowed a key—the mode in which the unfortunate Gilbert perished—and on pushing his fingers into the pharynx, he was soon convinced that the key of the chamber door was lodged in the oesophagus! Prof. Roux was now sent for, and, after several unsuccessful attempts, the key, together with an oblong piece of copper attached by a chain to the handle of the instrument, were extracted from the throat. The alarming symptoms immediately subsided, but the irritation and inflammation occasioned by the foreign body, required prompt and decisive depletions, both local and general. Presently his speech was re-

stored, but he refused to give any account of the motives which led to the suicidal attempt.

In the succeeding night he made fresh efforts to destroy himself, first by hanging with the bed-clothes—and that failing, he endeavoured to strangle himself by squeezing two chairs against his neck. These attempts proving insufficient, he again swallowed the same key, as far as he could possibly push it down his throat! He was nearly dead when found in the morning; and now the course was pursued which ought to have been pursued in the beginning. He was taken to the hospital, the key extracted, a straight waistcoat applied, and rigid discipline in respect to depletion and diet, enjoined. By these means, all disposition to suicide, in other words, the mental alienation under which he laboured, was soon subdued, and he left the hospital in perfect integrity of mind. This is a good example, elucidating the necessity of guarding a person by the strictest surveillance, from the moment that he evinces the slightest symptom of mental alienation, *whether the aberration manifests itself by incongruous expressions, or attempts at self-destruction.* This precept should be engraven on the mind of every medical man, and no circumstances should prevent his unfolding it to the parties concerned the moment it is necessary. Procrastination is not, in these cases, merely the "thief of time," but actually the executioner of the unhappy patient.

INTELLIGENCE.

NATIVE OIL OF LAUREL.—The knowledge of this singular vegetable production of South America, has been until recently confined to the natives of Spanish Guiana. It affords a solitary instance of the natural production of a perfect volatile liquid, without the aid of art, and is yielded by a tree of considerable height, the wood of which is aromatic, compact in its texture, and of a brownish colour, and its roots abound with essential oil. This oil is procured by striking with an axe the proper vessels in the internal layers of the bark; while a calabash is held to receive the fluid, which gushes out in such abundance, that several quarts may be caught from a single incision, if the operation be performed with dexterity. In many of its properties the native oil resembles the essential oil obtained by expression, distillation, and other artificial processes; it is, however, more volatile and highly rectified than any of them, its specific gravity hardly exceeding that of alcohol. When pure, it is colourless and transparent; its taste is warm and pungent; its odour aromatic, and very like that of spirit of turpentine. It is inflammable, and dissolves camphor, caoutchouc, wax, and resin; and readily combines with the volatile and fixed oils. It is insoluble in water, but soluble in alcohol and in ether.

With respect to the medicinal properties of the native oil, it bears, when externally applied, the character of a powerful discutient, and appears, when exhibited internally, to be diaphoretic, diuretic, and resolvent: by many it is believed to be analeptic, alterative, and anodyne; and to promote the exfoliation of carious bones.

Without listening to the extravagant reports of the Indians, who exalt it into a panacea, we must admit that its efficacy has been demonstrat-

ed in cases of rheumatism, swellings of the joints, cold tumours, and in the various disorders supposed to originate in a vitiated state of the blood. In all these cases it is exhibited in doses of from thirty to forty drops, twice a day, accompanied by frequent and continued friction of the parts affected by the oil, while the body is kept moderately warm, and a free use of diet-drinks prescribed to the patient. The same practice is said to have been attended with the happiest effect in paralytic disorders; for this we cannot vouch, but have found it a valuable remedy in cases of nervous rheumatic headach, sprains, and bruises. A decoction of the root has been used as an alterative, in various chronic complaints.

HEALTH OF OUR CITIES.—At Natchez, although the weather has been exceedingly warm, no sickness had prevailed, at the last dates, which could excite any alarm.—At Charleston, new cases of yellow-fever are reported by the board of health every day.—At New-Orleans, that fatal disease made its appearance on the 8th of August, and on the 12th nine new cases were reported.—The Alexandria Herald states, that a distressing disease which has been termed the fall sickness, already prevails in the upper counties of Virginia, which were visited with such dreadful mortality during the midst of last autumn.—Savannah continues uncommonly healthy.—The dysentery in its worst form is spreading its ravages in Clearfield county, (Penn.)—This city, New-York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, are perfectly exempt from any kind of malignant disease.

IMPORTANT TO CHEMISTS AND LADIES.—It is an unaccountable omission of chemists, not to have observed that copper is soluble in ammonia. Gold trinkets are frequently made of alloyed metal. By boiling them in ammonia, the copper is dissolved to a certain depth below the surface, and pure gold presents itself. This process may be repeated as often as necessary, and constitutes the most effectual method of *cleaning* such articles.—Copper plates frequently suffer great injury from this process when they have been laid aside for some time, an injury which might be avoided by covering them, when put by, with common lac varnish.

ANIMAL FAT.—M. L. Chevreul has been recently engaged in a chemical analysis of the various kinds of animal fat. M. Cuvier speaks in the most extravagant terms of his inquiries. He thinks they will constitute a new era in physiology, and that they have already begun to do that with respect to the particular composition of the human organs and functions, which comparative anatomy has done for their structure.

RETREAT FOR THE INSANE.—Drs. Mason F. Cogswell, William Tully, and Samuel B. Woodward, visitors of the Retreat for the Insane in Hartford, Conn. report that the fine building recently erected for that Institution is very spacious, commodious and permanent; that order, decorum and neatness prevail in the wards; that the terms of admission are as low as can be desired; that the plan of management is gentle and parental, and that its good effects are manifest in the improving health of the patients. The physician possesses talents that particularly qualify him for his charge.—The building in question is situated near the direct road up Connecticut River, and is an ornament to the town.

QUARANTINE.—On the 28th ult. the Common Council of this city ordered that until the further order of that body, there be a quarantine on all vessels which shall hereafter arrive at this port, from Charleston, S. C. or from any port or place within the United States, or the territories thereof, south of Charleston.

HONARARY DEGREES IN MEDICINE.—At the recent Commencement at Harvard University, the honorary degree of Doctor in Medicine was conferred on Nathaniel Lothrop of Plymouth, Nehemiah Cleveland of Topsfield, Timothy L. Jennison of Cambridge, Jonathan Leonard of Sandwich, Oliver Fiske of Worcester, and Calvin Thomas of Tyngsborough, and on Samuel Emerson of Wells, in the state of Maine.

CHANGE OF DIET.—The King and Queen of the Sandwich Islands have recently died in London, it is presumed, from a change of diet; living in their native land on seal skins, blubber oil, and whale fins, and surrendering such luxuries for capons, roast beef, chicken pies, and port wine. It was sufficient to kill persons of more robust habits.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Several communications, for which we have no room to-day, will be inserted with pleasure next week.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON.

Ending September 4th, from the Health-Office Returns.

August 28th.—Sarah A. Spear, 5. 29th.—William Jennings, 21; Elizabeth Freuden, 3; Mary Hunt, 73; Michal Bohan, 38; Peter Fry. 30th.—Benjamin Baker, 8 mo. 31st.—Caroline Case, 10 mo.; Joanna Bailey, 5 weeks; Charles W. Dixon, 8 mo.; Sarah Foster, 18 mo.; John B. McIntire; Lucy Ann Crosby, 8 mo.; — Gouch, 7 days; — Dix; Thomas Murphy, 8 mo. Sept. 1st.—John Magner, 11 weeks. 2d.—Eunice Young, 58; Samuel S. Flinn, 17 mo. 3d.—Meriam Field, 38; — Matthews; Lucy Quincy Tarbell, 6; Abigail Childs, 32. 4th.—Child of John Dunlap; Samuel Cobb Lincoln, 20.

Throat Distemper, 1—Typhus and Brain Fever, 1—Canker, 1—Cholera Morbus, 3—Dysentery, 3—Teething, 1—Infantile, 2—Consumption, 2—Inflammation of the Lungs, 1—Insane, 1—Disorder of the Brain, 1—Stillborn, 2—Croup, 1—Bilious Fever, 2—Blows on the Head, 1.

Died, in New-York, Dr. Archibald Munro, of the British Army stationed at Niagara. He was on his way to the W. Indies on account of the ill state of his health.—At Harper's Ferry, Dr. Charles Brown, leaving the principal part of his estate to the Pennsylvania Hospital.—In New-York, Dr. Benjamin Marshall, a native of New-Hampshire, aged 54.—At Richmond, Dr. William Foushee, sen. whose usefulness for *half a century* had gained him the honour and affection of his fellow-citizens.—At his residence in the country, on the 27th ult. Dr. Samuel Stewart, formerly of Philadelphia. The skill and judgment which Dr. S. displayed in his professional career, his general acquirements, and his moral conduct, placed him high among his brethren. He bade fair to be one of the most useful, as he was one of the most enlightened and respected citizens.

Berkshire Medical Institution,

Connected with Williams College.

THE Annual Course of Medical Lectures in this Institution will commence on the second Wednesday of September, and continue fifteen weeks.—JOHN P. BATCHELDER, M. D. on Surgery, Anat. and Physiol. as subservient to the Theory and Practice of Medicine and Surgery. JEROME V. C. SMITH, M. D. on General Anatomy and Physiology. HENRY H. CHILDS, M. D. on Theory and Practice of Medicine. JOHN DELLMATTER, M. D. on Mat. Med. Pharmacy and Obstetrics. Prof. DEWEY on Chymistry, Botany, Mineralogy, Nat. and Experimental Philosophy. STEPHEN W. WILLIAMS, M. D. on Medical Jurisprudence.

To Teachers of Anatomy and Surgery.

THE Subscriber is engaged in making a Magnified Brain, from four to five feet round, in plaster and wax, minutely accurate, and naturally coloured, exhibiting the origin of the *cerèbral nerves*. It revolves upon an axis, admirably calculated for demonstration to a large class, at a distance from the demonstrator.—Gentlemen desirous of securing one of these, are requested to forward their orders immediately. Price 40 dollars, without the arteries, and with them, 50 dollars.

School-street, Boston.

H. WILLIAMS.

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BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1824.

No. 13.

OBSERVATIONS.

ON APOPLEXY.

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer.

Cullen defines this disease to be a loss of the whole external and internal senses, and in some degree the power of voluntary motion, while respiration and the motion of the heart continue to be performed. When the patient appears to his friends to be in perfect health, and to bid fair for long life, he is sometimes struck dead instantaneously, without a sigh or a groan. Hence the disease acquires its name.

History. Apoplexy attacks both sexes, and sometimes persons in youth and in middle age; but most commonly affects those advanced in life, and especially those above sixty years of age.—It is observed that people who have large heads and short necks, especially if they be of irritable habit, are more predisposed to this disease than others. It attacks persons who are corpulent, lead an inactive life, make use of a full diet, or drink to excess. Men who have long laboured under a frequent and copious discharge of blood from the hemorrhoidal vessels, upon either the suppression or spontaneous ceasing of that discharge, are (as Cullen remarks) peculiarly liable to be affected with apoplexy.

Apoplexy is most common in cold winters, or warm springs succeeding to cold winters.—The attack is frequently instantaneous; but it is also often gradual. Carlisle, in his essay on "Old Age," remarks that he never saw an instance of apoplexy, until many previous intimations.—Sometimes, confusion of ideas, flushings of the face, headach, nausea, drowsiness and stertor in sleep, are observed in succession.

Symptoms. This affection is, on its accession, generally denoted by a bloated tumidity, suffusion, deep flushing or lividity of the countenance. The expression is changed or lost. The temperature of the surface is at first unaltered, but soon becomes hot and feverish. The pupils of the eyes are contracted. The eyes are, occasionally closed. The patient often lies without apparent motion. Sometimes there are spasmodic or convulsive movements of the face, or of some part of the body or limbs; sometimes one side of the face or body is convulsed, while the other is in a state of paralysis. In general, the limbs are sensible to the stimulus of pricking or pinching; unless there be a complete paralysis, the most profound apoplectic generally starts when pricked by the lancet in bleeding; and Cheyne observes, he thinks he has seen a patient in apoplexy start, when a door was shut with noise. Respiration becomes slow, stertorous and irregular, sometimes convulsive, and lastly, interrupted; this last state of the respiratory function is considered by Cheyne the most dangerous symptom.

The patient is no sooner seized, than the pulse becomes slow and full. When slow, it is generally unequal. The heat of the body is much increased, and a profuse sweat has been forced from its whole surface. Sometimes, after the attack, the countenance becomes less flushed,

paler, fallen, without expression, and distorted; and the appearance of coma is still more remarkable than before. The pupils are much, perhaps unequally, dilated, and the eye becomes dull, opaque and flaccid. The state of paralysis and insensibility to external stimuli, is increased. The cheeks, nose and extremities, become cold; and there is frequently a cold, clammy perspiration. The respiration now becomes slower and much more irregular; the pulse more frequent and feeble, but is still unequal and irregular.—The fæces and urine are often passed at this period unconsciously and involuntarily. During the whole progress of an attack of apoplexy, the patient does not usually swallow a morsel, nor even a drop of any kind of liquid; but there are some cases in which a palatable draught will be swallowed, and a nauseous one rejected.

As death approaches, the organs of sense entirely lose their faculty of receiving impressions; no kind of excitation affects the patient, and convulsions close the scene.

Causes. The immediate cause of apoplexy is most generally a compression on the brain, produced either by external violence, tumours, an accumulation of blood in the vessels of the head, distending them to such a degree as to produce compression, or by an effusion of blood from the red vessel, which is accumulated in sufficient quantity to occasion compression. Dr. Cullen supposes the proximate cause to be whatever interrupts the motion of the nervous power from the brain to the muscles of voluntary motion, or destroys the mobility of that power. Hall considers the principal cause of apoplexy to be, hereditary disposition, the sanguineous or phlegmatic temperament, shortness of stature, corpulency or debility, violent passions of the mind, sorrow, intemperance and gluttony, indolence, and old age.

Diagnosis. Nosologists have distinguished apoplexy into two kinds, sanguinous and serous; but there is no apparent foundation for this distinction, since there is little or no difference in the symptoms, and it is only after death that it can be determined whether the effusion be of blood or serum. Serous, when compared with sanguineous apoplexy, is considered, by Cheyne and others, to be a rare disease.

Apoplexy may be distinguished from palsy by the suspension of the whole of the powers of sense and voluntary motion.—It is chiefly by the continuation of the action of the heart, arteries and lungs, that it is to be distinguished from syncope.—It differs from natural sleep by coming on suddenly, and by the difficulty or impossibility of rousing the patient.—Drunkenness exhibits phenomena so similar to those of this disease, that they have sometimes misled physicians of experience, when called to persons of whom no account could be given. Where the breath is tainted with the liquor taken, the cause is sufficiently apparent; but in other cases, as ebriety from strong beer, &c. the breath does not afford this distinguishing mark. The patient in apoplexy cannot be roused by shouting in his ear,

nor by shaking and pinching him. His respiration is slow, labouring and irregular, his pupils contracted, and his breath not tainted with the smell of liquor; yet is the extreme insensibility from intoxication sometimes distinguished with difficulty from that which constitutes apoplexy.

Appearances, like those of apoplexy, have been brought on by overloading the stomach with food difficult to digest. In this case the patient often exhibits marks of oppression or uneasiness of his stomach, and the pulse is not so slow and full as in apoplexy.

Prognosis. In some cases of this disease it is impossible to foretell the event; but in others, the prognostic may be made with more certainty.—We must take into consideration, 1st, the age, strength, constitution, and former habits of the patient; 2d, the symptoms, nature, and duration of the disease. In as far as the system of the brain alone is concerned, we draw our prognostic from the quantity of sensorial power which still exists in the body. With any return of sensibility our hopes rise, and with the diminution of it, they are destroyed. If the coma and other symptoms are slight, and the strength not much exhausted, there are some hopes of a cure; but if the symptoms continue violent for some days, apoplexy generally terminates in death or in some other disease.

A very slow or a very frequent pulse is unfavourable, and Cheyne remarks, he never feels an irregular and unequal pulse without the utmost dread, and that we may consider the patient as lost, when the pulse has become quick and thready. The greatest danger is to be apprehended when the patient is seized with convulsions. When the sphincters of the anus and bladder are relaxed in the beginning of the attack, death generally ensues. When the patient has lost the power of deglutition, it denotes a violent disease. A very unfavourable prognostic is also drawn from the patient's often putting his hand to his head. Certainly, (says Cheyne) I have not known a patient recover, who in the beginning of the attack, complained of a sudden pain in his head. Finally, when there is a cold clammy sweat, the face having a cadaverous appearance, the eyes flaccid and dull, there is scarcely any hope of recovery.

The more favourable symptoms are, a return of sensibility, or of any usual evacuation when that has ceased; together with a gentle and equable sweat, and copious discharges of urine containing a sediment. Spontaneous evacuations from the bowels, and violent spontaneous vomiting, have brought on a resolution of the disease.

Treatment. The cure divides itself into two parts. The first is, to relieve the patient during the fit; the second, to prevent its return.—To answer the first indications, we resort to—1st, blood-letting—2d, emetics and purges—3d, external applications.

1st. Of Blood-letting. This is not only the most effectual remedy in apoplexy, but is much more effectual than all the others in use. When a patient labours under an apoplectic stroke, he ought immediately to have a large quantity of

blood drawn from him. If the first has not been of service, a second and third bleeding should be practised. Cheyne observes that from six to eight pounds of blood were taken from a person by no means robust, before the disease, which ended favourably, began to yield. He also tells us of a person, who while under every symptom of impending apoplexy, was twice relieved by hemorrhage from the nose, to the amount of several quarts. Blood should be drawn from the temporal artery, the jugular vein, or a large vein in the arm. Blood-letting from the lower extremities, as it makes less impression on the circulation, is only to be recommended when blood cannot be procured from the neck or arm. The quantity of blood to be drawn must depend upon the violence of the attack, the appearances of the blood drawn, and other circumstances.—When the pulse and breathing become more natural after blood-letting, we are taught to hope for a speedy resolution of the disease.

2d. Of Emetics and Purges. Emetics are made use of by some physicians. Sydenham recommended their use in apoplexy; but it is now generally allowed that they are at best a doubtful remedy, and should never be ordered but in cases where apoplexy is only threatened from surfeit, and in those cases the mildest means of inducing vomiting should be made use of. These are, a weak infusion of chamomile, tepid water, or tickling the fauces with a feather. In a confirmed apoplexy, even these methods cannot be employed with safety. Even in cases where an emetic is indicated, probably relief would be afforded, and with less danger, by cathartics and enemas. Cheyne advises that an enema of salt and water or of soap, be immediately injected in an attack of apoplexy.

Purges are of the greatest service in this disease, and they should be of a powerful kind.—Great relief is generally afforded the head by the operation of active cathartics. These should be repeated at intervals until the intestinal canal is entirely evacuated. Calomel is the most suitable medicine. It should be given to the patient as soon as he can be made to swallow, and ought to be followed by an infusion of senna and some of the neutral salts.

3d. External Applications. Vesication has been recommended by most authors who have written upon apoplexy; but by Cheyne it is considered a remedy inferior to cold applications.—He remarks that he never saw a patient relieved by blistering. He recommends the blister to be applied to the neck rather than the head, and to shave the head and expose it to a current of cool air, at the same time applying warmth to the extremities. In some violent cases, cataplasms of mustard and other stimulating substances, applied to the palms of the hands and soles of the feet, have been found useful.

We shall now consider the method of preventing the fits. Persons predisposed to this disease from plethora, should observe temperance in eating and drinking, abstaining from all high-seasoned food and from meat suppers. Violent exertion of every kind should be avoided. Riding or walking is the best exercise. Sudden passions of the mind are to be avoided. Nothing tight should be worn about the neck, and when in bed the head ought to be supported at a proper height. Cold and wet feet, and all the occasional causes, are to be avoided. Persons pre-

disposed to apoplexy, should be careful to keep the primæ viæ open by some gentle laxative taken occasionally. Issues and setons have been found useful when applied to the nape of the neck. If the precursory symptoms should occur, notwithstanding the means to obviate them have been used, the person should lose blood, take a purge, and confine himself to a vegetable diet, or avoid solid food & take liquid nourishment.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

MR. EDITOR,

It was not without much surprise that I read an article in your valuable paper, of the 24th ult. which must have been composed in the absence of that urbanity and liberal judgment which are usually displayed in your columns: I regret it the more, as its effects may extend to the creation of an unworthy prejudice, which a respect for the character of your work, forbids me to think you are capable of indulging. In referring to the number and ability of professional gentlemen given to the country by the facilities of a medical education, which none can deny, I find under the head of "medical schools", the following sentence;—"forming together a number sufficiently large to answer all the demands of the nation, including the army and navy, although to the discouragement of our own enterprising professional youth, the government have always employed a considerable number of foreigners in the medical staff." A simple statement of the facts, is better than all argument:—on turning to the register of the navy for this year, it will be discovered, that of the seventy three medical officers in the navy, seven have been born in Europe, and of these, two have been twenty, two sixteen, and three more than ten years in service; consequently no foreigner has received a medical appointment in the navy for a period of nearly eleven years. In estimating their length of service, I take into the account the time they served in a subordinate grade, which the register does not give; for be it spoken to the credit of these gentlemen, whose misfortune seems to consist in the destiny of their birth, that each of them has received, not only his medical, but his moral and political education in the country which he serves, and has been promoted from an inferior rank, to the one he now holds. As it regards the army, with which I am not so well acquainted, the case is stronger; for without an exception, the whole of its medical staff is composed of native Americans.—Besides, there are no appointments of surgeons in the navy made, unless the candidate has previously served a certain time as a surgeon's mate, and the government have recently required that he shall also have passed a rigid examination by a board of experienced men.

It is with the utmost reluctance I am induced to notice this error in the above remarks, because it would be painful for me to believe it was the result of any thing but a want of correctness in the source of their author's information. Their scope & tendency too are calculated to produce an invidious distinction, which neither the government nor its laws ever intended should obtain, nor which a proper sense of your justice will allow me to believe you intended to convey.—It is true, however, and, I think, fortunate too, that no extrinsic qualities of birth are admitted in the selection for such places. Each state in

the Union has, by a regulation, a proportionate number in all *primary* appointments in the service; and so far from any ascendancy in the enjoyment of *profit* from the state, it is a well known fact, that within a few months, no less than nine surgeons, and as many mates, (to say nothing of deaths in the performance of duty,) have resigned their commissions, wisely choosing private practice to reward them for an arduous and expensive profession. If such vacancies are enviable, it is a lesson yet to be learned in the navy, in which, after a service of fifteen or twenty years, through all the hazards of "the battle and the breeze," you may chance to get some small compensation for your toils, or perhaps with more truth, be compelled to realize the familiar remark of a celebrated London practitioner, that "you will just get your bread, when you have no teeth to eat it."

A SUBSCRIBER.

Charlestown, Mass. Sept. 1824.

MATTER.

Mr. Bory de St. Vincent has lately read to the Society of Natural History, and to the Academy of Sciences at Paris, a curious Memoir on Matter, considered with reference to Natural History.—In consequence of the great errors which result from the use of microscopes of more extensive power, M. de Saint Vincent has confined himself in his observations, to microscopes which magnify a thousand times. In penetrating by these instruments into the invisible world, (to use his own expression) matter has constantly presented itself to him in five states, perfectly distinct;—states which he by no means considers as primordial and elementary, but which, however they may be themselves constituted, form by their combinations, the greater part of existing beings. To each of these classes of corpuscula, he gives a characteristic name, conformable to its most remarkable properties, and classes them in the following order:—Mucous Matter, Living Matter, Vegetable Matter, Crystallizable Matter, Earthly Matter.

Mucous Matter shows itself in water submitted to the prolonged operation of air and light. It coats the stones which lie at the bottom of brooks and rivers, and renders them very slippery. It is sensibly unctuous to the touch, and sometimes acquires the consistence of jelly.—Aquatic animals are more or less covered with it, and M. Bory de St. Vincent thinks that the viscosity of sea-water is chiefly attributable to it.

Living Matter, according to M. de St. Vincent, is composed of globules, perfectly round, which are the *monas termo** of Muller. These globules are in constant agitation, and move with the greatest swiftness. Their appearance precedes, by a shorter or longer time, that of the animals called *infusoires*. They incorporate themselves with mucous matter, give it a certain consistence, and convert it into membranes which seem to require nothing, in order to constitute living bodies, but a nervous network, the manner of the introduction of which is a mystery which will probably never be discovered.

Vegetable Matter discloses itself in all kinds of water, even in distilled. It colours, with an agreeable green, the liquid in which it is form-

* The smallest and most simple of the microscopic beings at present described.

ed, and the bodies which are immersed in that liquid. M. St. Vincent attributes to it the greenish hue of packed oysters. The particles of vegetable matter are compressible, oval, and transparent, but of a greenish hue, motionless, preserving their colour, but losing their form in drying.

Crystalline Matter is the fourth result of the spontaneous decomposition which takes place in infusions. It is an assemblage of translucent particles, hard, angular, and flat; which approach one another by molecular attraction, and not by any motion belonging to themselves.

Earthly Matter is composed of hard, opaque, polyedrous or rounded molecules, the form and colour of which are not changed by alterations of wet or dryness.

M. Bory de St. Vincent thinks that, with this small number of materials, endowed with invariable properties, Nature is enabled to produce the prodigious variety of beings which people the universe, all subjected to simple and uniform laws. He entirely denies the transformation of animals into vegetables, and reciprocally, even in microscopic beings.

REPORTS.

LETTER TO WILLIAM INGALLS, M. D. OF THIS CITY.
Communicated by him for the Medical Intelligencer.

Washington, N. H. August 25, 1824.

DEAR SIR,—I have taken the liberty to address you, seeking your advice, (which I have always found profitable) on a disease which is now prevalent in an adjoining town. I have had the privilege of inspecting two bodies, and that is a great privilege, since the people here are much more averse to it than they are in Boston. The first was a child about five months old: in this I found nothing extraordinary, except that the foramen ovale was open. The last died with the disease on which I wish to ask your opinion. Mr. F. had four children taken sick with vomiting, pain in the intestines, pulse high, considerable fever, frequent indication for stool, but little discharged, and what was passed was thin mucus, in some cases mixed with a large quantity of dark coloured blood, and in others but little. Those who have been thus attacked have immediately sunk, and universal languor almost instantaneously succeeded, except in the pulse. Two of the above named gentleman's children have sunk under this disease, and another must soon go. Mr. L. a neighbour of his, has lost one child, and has two more very low. Dr Baker, of Alstead, and Dr Abel, of Lempster, with Dr McQueston, have been in attendance, but as yet without any success. Medicine appears to have no favourable effect. I asked permission to inspect Mr. L.'s child, but was denied. Mr. F.'s, I had the good fortune to gain for inspection, and that presented the following appearances.

Upon the abdomen being opened, the omentum shewed marks of inflammation. The gall-bladder appeared distended with bile, of a dark colour, and considerable effusion therefrom.—The diaphragm also showed some appearance of inflammation, the stomach none or but very little, and also the small intestines. But in the rectum, the mucus-coat appeared to be wholly abraded, and the muscular coat to be thickened; the whole parietes of the abdomen, or rather pelvis, appeared to partake of the inflammation.

I thought the coats of the bladder were thickened, and it was full of urine. The mesenteric arteries were turgid, and the blood in them of a dark colour, presenting a fine view, with their different ramifications. Through the whole of the intestinal tube, the mesenteric glands appeared very much enlarged, much more so than I had before observed. The course of treatment pursued by the above mentioned physicians, has been various; frequent cathartics of Sub. M. Hyd. with blistering with one—more mild but not less frequent cathartics, with the *misturæ calcis* and infections, and the most light and nourishing food, with another; yet all has been done without good effect, the patients having generally left us in about five days after the above symptoms have shown themselves.

CARBONIC ACID GAS.

In our school-books, when children, we used to read of the Grotto del Cane in Italy;—how the hermit who resided near its entrance would amuse travellers by showing them how soon his dog would die when thrown into it, although he could creep about in it himself with perfect safety: and we then shared also with his guests the amazement which was excited when he restored life to his senseless animal by throwing him into a pond which was near the mouth of this wonderful cavern. The following three cases, at the same time that they exhibit a similar but more fatal experiment, will tend to produce some caution in the construction of one of the most useful and common appendages to our dwellings, and show how the evil alluded to may be most easily avoided.

After drawing the water from a well in Bézrah, Mr. Nathan Billings, of Norwich, and formerly of North Stonington, descended and began to drill into a rock at the bottom, for the purpose of obtaining water in a greater quantity.—When he had perforated the rock to a sufficient depth, he charged it, and ascended to light the match, which he did, but only succeeded in flashing the priming. After two or three ineffectual attempts to discharge the blast, for which he had thrown and fired a quantity of combustible matter, he gave up the attempt for that day, fearing to descend lest a sudden explosion might take place. On Saturday he again descended, and after dipping up a few buckets of filthy water and dirt, he was seen to faint and fall to the bottom. Mr. Wm. Abel, who was near, immediately descended with a rope, but he had no sooner tied it around Mr. Billings, than he became suffocated. The family immediately alarmed the neighbourhood, when a Mr. Tennant came to their assistance. After tying a rope around himself, he descended and fastened another around Mr. Abel, and when he had done this, his fate was like that of the two first; he also fainted. But by means of these ropes, the people succeeded (after much difficulty, as one of the ropes broke) in hauling them up. By this time a physician came to their aid, who succeeded, after some time, in restoring Mr. Abel; Mr. Tennant recovered immediately on receiving fresh air. But nearly an hour had then elapsed since the first had fallen, and the breath of life had forever departed.

It will here be seen that the air, though pure when the well was first descended, had in a few hours become so strongly impregnated with carbonic acid, as to prove fatal to animal life. As

accidents of this nature so frequently occur, it might be supposed that people would take the precaution always to try the state of the air before they venture to descend—when so simple an experiment as the following, which was afterwards tried on that well, would be a sufficient test. A candle was let down, but before it had descended half the depth, it was extinguished. A bucket was then let down, and the gas was drawn from the well; but on putting a lighted candle into the bucket, that was also extinguished.

PRINCE HOHENLOHE FOILED.

A gentleman labouring under insanity, removed from the county of Maga, for the convenience of sea-bathing and medical advice, to the vicinity of Dublin. No favourable appearances having occurred in the disease, his lady was advised by some of the popish Priests who constantly surrounded the family, it being Roman Catholic, to apply to his holiness the Pope, to obtain thro' him the miraculous aid of Prince Hohenlohe.—The Prince, of course, readily complied with the wishes of his spiritual Head, and with those of the lady. He informed Dr Murray of his acquiescence, and appointed the day. At the request of Prince Hohenlohe, and by the direction of Dr Murray, on that day mass was celebrated in every chapel of the arch-diocese of Dublin, and twenty one Priests attended at the gentleman's residence. These were divided some in one apartment, some in another. The mass service commenced in all places at the same hour, and continued to be offered up in the gentleman's house until after sun-set!—but no miracle! The afflicted wife of the gentleman, at the termination of each service, would rush with anxious expectation to the apartment of her suffering husband, and eagerly inquired of the keepers concerning the situation of the patient; but after each celebration her hopes were disappointed, and her sufferings increased from disappointed hope. At length one day's work terminated—but no miracle! The second day's incantation proving as abortive as the first, they agreed to abandon their design, and the great body of Priests withdrew, leaving however a clerical sentinel behind.

INTELLIGENCE.

TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY.—The library and museum connected with the medical department of this University, having been united, the apartments they occupy are thrown open 7 hours each day, as reading rooms, thereby affording facilities the most ample to those engaged in the study of the medical profession. In its resources for anatomical instruction, the museum is rich and splendid; besides a variety of wet and dry preparations, those in wax are peculiarly beautiful, and of great value. They consist of the following specimens, completed in a superior style by the first artists of the age:—1st. A decomposable female figure, of adult size, exhibiting the blood-vessels, nerves, and muscles of several parts, together with the contents of the large cavities of the body, in their natural situation. 2d. A decomposable eye, of gigantic size, calculated for demonstration before a large class. 3d. The bones of the internal organ of hearing, of gigantic size. 4th. Ten different views of the brain,

modelled after the best dissections, and the most elegant plates of that organ. 5th. Several interesting and important views of the gravid uterus, representing the condition of that organ at different periods of gestation. 6th. Representations of the nerves and lymphatics of several parts of the body where the arrangement and appearance of these are striking and beautiful. 7th. A representation, of adult size, and in a healthy condition, of the viscera of the abdomen, in their natural situation.—The museum has also received a cabinet of minerals, with a collection of the most important chemical articles of the materia medica, and an Herbarium, embracing the medical plants of our country, all interesting to the medical pupil.—A hospital which has lately been endowed, for the accommodation of the lunatics of the state, attended by the Faculty, will offer clinical cases of a highly interesting and important character to a medical class.

MEDICAL DEGREES.—At the recent Commencement at Cambridge, the degree of Doctor in Medicine was conferred on Adolphus Kinsman Borden, Samuel Bowen, David Wood Gorham, A. B., Cyrus Frink, Samuel Gridley Howe, A. B.

At Brown University, on William H. Bradley, Hiram Bucklin, Johnson Gardner, Amory Gale, Henry Willard, Menzies R. Randall, Jonathan Dearbourne, Draper Carpenter, Ezra B. Gale, Warren Partridge, Ashbel Willard, and Elias Frost.

At Bowdoin College, (Me.) on S. W. Baker, John Barrett, J. A. Bodwell, Stephen C. Brewster, Ezra Carter, Tolman Cary, Jonathan Chase, Eliphalet Clark, James Cochran, Rufus K. Cushing, John S. Fernald, Simeon Fuller, Timothy Gordon, Ezekiel Holmes, Benj. Johnson, Asa H. King, Clark Lillybridge, John G. Merrill, Samuel W. Pratt, Charles Snow.

At Williams College, the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine was also conferred on Drs. John Stone of Springfield, Stephen W. Williams of Deerfield, and John Delematter of Sheffield. The degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on Matthew Turck, Franklin Barber, W. S. Frisbee, Henry Jones, and George L. Weed.

At Middlebury, (Vermont) THIRTY-FOUR young gentlemen received their doctorate in Medicine, but their names have not been sent us.

NATURAL HISTORY.—Linnaeus, in 1773, indicated about 8,000 species of plants. M. Decandolle now describes 40,000, and within a few years they will doubtless exceed 50,000.—Buffon estimated the number of quadrupeds at about 300. M. Demarets has just enumerated above 700, and he is far from considering this last complete.—M. de Lacapède wrote twenty years ago the history of all the known species of fish; the whole did not amount to 1500. The French King's cabinet alone has now above 2500, which, says M. Cuvier, are but a small proportion of those which the seas and rivers would furnish.—We no longer venture to fix numbers for the birds and reptiles; the cabinets are crowded with new species which require to be classed.—Above all we are confounded at the continually increasing number of insects; it is by thousands that travellers bring them from the hot climates; the cabinet of the King containing above 25,000 species; and there are at least as many more in the various cabinets of Europe. The work of M. Strassus, on the May-bug, has just shown that this little body, of an inch in length, has 396 hard pieces, serving as envelopes, 494 muscles, 24 pair of nerves, 48 pair of tracheæ.

DRY ATMOSPHERE.—All over the south east part of Persia, to within a few miles of the Persian Gulph, the air is so dry, that the brightest steel may be laid bare to the atmosphere, at all hours, without the slightest shade in its brilliancy. To find a rose with a sparkle of dew upon it, from March to September, would be regarded almost equal to a miracle.

TASTE OF ELECTRICITY.—Prof. Berzelius observes, that positive and negative electricity may be readily distinguished by the taste, on making the electric cur-

rent pass, by means of a point, to the tongue. The taste of the positive electricity is acid, and that of the negative is more caustic, and, as it were, alkaline.

SUPPOSED NEW METAL.—A description of a supposed new metal, with a specimen, was lately sent to Sir Humphrey Davy, called Taschium, from the mine of Taschio, where it was found. The specimen sent was said to be silver containing the new metal; the two metals having been separated by amalgamation, and the mercury afterwards driven off, on dissolving it in pure nitric acid, it was stated that the Taschium would remain as a black powder. It was described as being combustible, with a bluish flame, a peculiar smell, and dissipation of the product.—Upon examination, it was found by Mr. Faraday of the Royal Institution, that the Taschium in this specimen was nothing but *Iron*!

FOSSIL REMAINS OF THE HUMAN SKELETON.—It is said that the fossil remains of a man and a horse have lately been found in France, and carried to M. Cuvier for inspection. We believe the human skeleton has never been found but once in a state of petrefaction; this rare specimen is deposited in the British Museum, in London. We are anxious to hear the result of M. Cuvier's examination, and as soon as obtained, it will be given to our readers.

SULPHATE OF QUININE—is gradually assuming a high place among the materia medicæ. Given in the dose of one grain, two or three times a day, it possesses all the properties of the peruvian bark in a powerful degree, besides other qualities of which we shall speak hereafter. We believe the only objection to its use, at present known, is its costliness.

STOMACH-SYRINGE.—Much has been said of the apparatus lately applied in Great Britain for the removal of poisons swallowed into the stomach, and much credit is undoubtedly due for the invention and application of the instruments used for this purpose. A great deal may be done in this way to prevent the fatal effects of poison, and the number of instances in which it has successfully been put in use upon men as well as animals, is already considerable. To whom, however, the credit of first employing this method is due, will be perceived by the following quotation from Dr. Beck's work on Medical Jurisprudence. "Dr. Physick, of Philadelphia, published a paper in 1812, in which he mentions that he successfully applied the syringe to a child poisoned with laudanum, and Dr Dorsey afterwards cured two individuals by the same treatment. That distinguished surgeon, however, subsequently states, that Dr Alexander Mears, 2d, first suggested the invention in 1797, although he (Dr Physick) was ignorant of this fact when he applied it practically. I conceive Dr Physick is entitled to the honour of having been the first who saved life by its means."

JUSTICE TO AMERICAN AUTHORS.—Baron Cuvier, in a report made to the Royal Academy of Sciences, at their annual public meeting in Paris, on the 24th April, 1824, gives a view of the state and progress of natural history, since the return of maritime peace. In a luminous and intelligent summary of the labours in different countries, and their achievements, he introduces this sentiment relative to our own:—"Wilson's Birds of the United States, designed, engraved and printed in the United States, and by artists of the country, are not inferior to our best collections. And in the solidity and authenticity of their descriptions, there is no difference between those made by Barton and Mitchell, natives of those great republics, and the performances which are executed among ourselves."

HYDROPHOBIA.—We regret that the proposal for introducing the above mentioned stomach-syringe into the stomach, in cases of hydrophobia, for the purpose of trying the effect of water thus conveyed to the system, has not yet been tried. Patients in this melancholy disease die for want of water; at least their death is accelerated by it, and surely the introduction of water by a syringe affords reasonable grounds for hope.

On the subject of the foregoing disease, a gentleman at Venice writes thus to his friend in Scotland:—"If you were here you would be much pleased with a discovery made at Udine, the capital of Friuli, a small province belonging to this republic. A poor man lying un-

der the frightful tortures of hydrophobia, was cured by some draughts of vinegar given him by mistake instead of another potion. A physician of Padua, called Count Leonissa, got intelligence of this event at Udine, and tried the same remedy upon a patient that was brought to the Paduan hospital, administering him a pound of vinegar in the morning, another at noon, and a third at sun-set; and the man was speedily and perfectly cured.

SCARLATINA.—Our correspondent at Northfield, N. H. informs us that the Scarlatina Anginosa and Maligna, made its appearance in that town about the middle of July, and has been gradually spreading and increasing in its malignancy; in some instances it has proved fatal. There have been sixty cases in that town. It has attacked persons from two to fifty years of age, and particularly those of a delicate constitution.—Large quantities of rain have fallen there for the last fifteen days, and patients labouring under the above epidemic have an aggravation of symptoms in rainy weather.—There have also been more new attacks of this disease in rainy, than in fair weather.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending September 10; from the Health-Office Returns.

Sept. 4th.—John B. Austin, 17 mo.; John Brazer, 46; Rebecca Russell, 87. 5th.—Betsey Harris; John Holbrook, 36. 6th.—Child of Harriet Morton; John H. Jennings; Catharine Scholtz; — Perry; — Ryder; Caroline Gansley; Sarah Mahony, 6; Franklin Slade, 10 mo.; Catharine Hayden, 31; Gilman Chaney, 22. 7th.—Mary Ann Stone, 2; James Ryan, 32; Benjamin Porter, 38; James Davis, jun. 46. 8th.—George L. Thompson, 13 mo.; Eliza A. Bradlee, 9 mo. 9th.—Mary Divoll, 17 mo.; Zebiah Glover, 80; — Hill; John Edwards; Sarah Ann Singer, 9 mo.; Eliza Chandler, 16; Ann Reynolds, 9 mo.; Nicholas Codd, 70; Thomas E. Litchfield, 12 mo. 10th.—Angela Lang, 22 mo.; Samuel Storey; Louisa Matilda Payne, 20 mo.

Dysentery, 3—*Fits*, 1—*Old age*, 2—*Consumption*, 4—*Stillborn*, 3—*Intemperance*, 1—*Complaint of the bowels*, 1—*Canker*, 1—*Spasms*, 1—*Typhus Fever*, 1—*Infantile*, 1—*Croup*, 1—*Hemorrhage from the Lungs*, 1—*Dropsy in the Head*, 1—*Teething*, 3—*Brain Fever*, 1—*Lung Fever*, 1.

DIED.—At his late residence in Woodbury, New-Jersey, on the 13th ult. after a most distressing disease of two weeks, in the 33d year of his age, William Hollingshead M'Calla, M. D.—In Southampton, Dr Sylvester Woodbridge, æt. 70.

Berkshire Medical Institution, Connected with Williams College.

THE Annual Course of Medical Lectures in this Institution will commence on the second Wednesday of September, and continue fifteen weeks.—JOHN P. BATCHELDER, M. D. on Surgery, Anat. and Physiol. as subservient to the Theory and Practice of Medicine and Surgery. JEROME V. C. SMITH, M. D. on General Anatomy and Physiology. HENRY H. CHILDS, M. D. on Theory and Practice of Medicine. JOHN DELEMATTER, M. D. on Mat. Med. Pharmacy and Obstetrics. Prof. DEWEY on Chymistry, Botany, Mineralogy, Nat. and Experimental Philosophy. STEPHEN W. WILLIAMS, M. D. on Medical Jurisprudence.

To Teachers of Anatomy and Surgery.

THE Subscriber is engaged in making a Magnified Brain, from four to five feet round, in plaster and wax, minutely accurate, and naturally coloured, exhibiting the origin of the cerebral nerves. It revolves upon an axis, admirably calculated for demonstration to a large class, at a distance from the demonstrator.—Gentlemen desirous of securing one of these, are requested to forward their orders immediately. Price 40 dollars, without the arteries, and with them, 50 dollars.

School-street, Boston.

H. WILLIAMS.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER :

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BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1824.

No. 19.

OBSERVATIONS.

PODAGRÆ ENCOMION,

OR A PANEGYRIC UPON THE GOUT.

The last London Magazine contains a humorous account of a humorous book which has just come to light, though purporting to be printed in 1699. It is entitled—

"THE HONOUR OF THE GOUT; or a rational Discourse, demonstrating that the Gout is one of the greatest blessings which can befall mortal man; that all Gentlemen who are weary of it are their own Enemies; that those practitioners who offer at the cure are the vainest and most mischievous cheats in nature. By way of a letter to an eminent Citizen, wrote in the heat of a violent paroxysm, and now published for the common good. By Philander Misiatrus."

In his song of praise, the author proceeds from the lowest commendations of the gout, and ascends by *six just steps*, till he has raised it above all the stars, and entered it among the celestial spirits.

First. *The gout gives a man pain without danger.* Since we must have pain while we live, give me the pain of the gout, which has no danger attending. Here some malevolent adversary may importunately object; Did never man die of the gout? To this I answer, 1st, I have not yet affirmed that the gout can make a man immortal, though I will boldly say thus much, it very often keeps a man alive till all his friends are weary of him. But, 2dly, Should I venture to say that the gout has in itself the power to make a man immortal, it ought not to seem so very strange, all things being considered. If that be true which some authors write of the noble Paracelsus, he had the secret to make a man immortal, and I would not say he lied, although himself died about *forty*; for perhaps he did not like his company: but it must have been by way of his discovery to give any man the gout when he pleased—in that I am positive.—Here the objector will scornfully put me in mind that gouty persons 'scape death no more than other men; which is very true, but that's because men are fools, and don't know when they are safe—they must be *curing* the gout forsooth, and to that end they deal with the *doctor*, i. e. with the factor of death, the emissary of hell, the purveyor of the grave, d——d alchemist, good at calcining nothing but living bodies into dust and ashes. All that can be rationally said against the gout is, that it does not actually preserve man in spite of his own folly and the doctor's ignorance.

Your Worship is indeed a fit object for the envy of all thinking men; for I have heard you confess, that your's is an *hereditary gout*, and that's for the better; an hereditary gout is a far greater happiness than an acquired one—what a deal of intemperance and amorous excess might it have cost your Worship to have got the gout *before forty*! Whereas you have now the mighty blessing for *nothing*. *Sorte nascendi*, it is your birthright, sir, never think of parting with it.—Perhaps you may be now tempted to ask me,

how I acquired my gout? I shall not be shy to satisfy your curiosity, for I came by it honestly. We scholars have a way by ourselves to come at the blessing, without being beholden to the god that cheers the genteel candidate of the gout by day, or the goddess that entertains him on nights; we lead sedentary lives, feed heartily, drink *quantum sufficit*, but sleep immoderately; so that the superfluities of our sober and grave fulness, not exhaling, we very honestly prepare tartarous matter for the gout, for the beneficial gout, which gives pain without danger.

Second. *The gout is no constant companion, but allows his patients lucid joyous intervals.* Human nature is so framed, that no one thing is agreeable to it always; therefore it is well for us, that the world is so full of changes. It is true, that there is some pain in the gout, and ought to be, for constant health has no relish, 'tis an insipid, dull thing. That reverend Calvinist, Dr. Twist, affirms that it is better to be damned than annihilated. I might, I suppose, with less offence, affirm, that 'twere better to be dead, than never to be sick of the gout. How often have I heard a grave adviser, one that had tried health and sickness for many years, tell the robust, young, riotous fellow, that he knew not the value of health. No, how should he, having never been sick? But why should his sober adviser press him to be careful of his health? That's the way never to understand the deliciousness of it,—by that time he gets the gout, he'll thoroughly understand the matter, I'll warrant him. Who would spoil the refined pleasure of his recovery, by wishing to have one angry throb, one heavy groan abated him? *Si parvis componere magna liceret*, the gout is to health, as ham and tongue to wine. I am much of the mind, sir, that by what I have said already, you are a coming proselyte; but before I have done with you, you shall choose to part with your eyes rather than your true friend the gout.

Third. *The gout presents you with a perpetual almanack.* Barometers, thermometers, and other inventions of men, not yet perfect masters of their art, serve more the delight than the use of the curious; but the useful pains of the gout give your honour trusty prognostics of the seasons. Spinoza will have it, that when a Jewish prophet foretold any thing, he gave a sign, a present sign, which was a confirmation of his prophecy; you have the sign within you, sir, in the *internodia* of your bones, and are a true prophet all over.

Fourth. *Gouty persons are most free from the headache.* The heavy recrements of the blood and nervous juice always fall downwards to the gouty joints. The nerves of the head, the fibres and the membranes, and lastly, the skin itself, are all freed from a world of torment by means of the medicinal gout, which attracts to exterior remote parts vicious humours, and there sets them on fire, wastes and evacuates them. Persons much favoured by the gout, are at this happy period, quite freed from headache. It is possible, says Confucius, for a lame gouty person to be a knave, even in our own country have I

known some such; but who ever knew a gouty cripple that was a fool? A Mandarin of the same race remarks, that natural fools never acquire the gout; the sons of gouty persons are defended from dulness and folly, by the sins of their parents, or if in their minority their understanding happen to lie a little backward, they shall no sooner enter on their gouty inheritance, but a bright illumination brings the same forward.—The brain becomes so defecated by the gout, that I knew a gentleman, but an ordinary writer in common, who, when he had the gout, wrote like an angel.

Fifth. *The gout preserves its patients from the great danger of fevers.* Gouty persons, by reason of a fixed dyscrasy of the blood, are not obnoxious to fevers. As they live free from the dreadful pains of the headache, so likewise from the scorching heat of fevers. I pity the young and healthy, not for their present ease, but because of their imminent danger. A cheerful glass may perchance throw him into a fever, and that fever perchance cost his life; whereas the man that's blest with the gout, fearlessly ventures the duty of the table, well knowing that when the worst comes to the worst, 'tis but roaring in purgatory some forty days or so, and by that time the gout has carried off clean all food for fever. They turn out, like burnt tobacco-pipes, clean and pure and fit for Paradise. Such is a true picture of the fire of the gout, which spends the morbid matter that might otherwise throw the body into a hellish fever. So that it is a truth, clear as the sun, if more people had the gout, fewer would die of a fever.

Sixth. To crown the honour of the gout, *it is not to be cured.* The gout defies all your gross galenical methods, and all your exalted chemical preparations; for the conjunct causes thereof, as the learned Willis confesses, lie in parts so very remote that the virtues of no medicines can reach them: and heaven be praised for it, for why, sir, would you *cure* (as you call it) the gout, which gives you pain without danger, a better taste of health by an acquaintance with pain, a knowledge of future things, and freedom from the headache and from fevers. Galen, who is still revered as a god by modern practitioners, acknowledges it impossible to find out a medicine that shall do any great good one way, and not do as much hurt another. Trust to nature. Nature, throwing off morbid matter to the remoter parts of the body, does designedly beget the gout, and make use of that admirable remedy to cure diseases already gotten, and to prevent others.

But I digress. What I ought chiefly to insist on, is the superlative excellence of the gout, which is never to be removed. The fear of losing a blessing takes off from the pleasure of enjoying it. Thieves may plunder your house, age will ruin your beauty, envy may asperse your reputation, bribes corrupt your faith, but the gout is a sure inheritance; neither thieves nor knaves—neither time, nor envy, nor any thing else, can despoil you of it. A man may himself, if he has a mind to it, squander his es-

tate, blemish his comely form, injure his fame, and renounce his honesty; but let him get rid of the gout if he can—that blessing he may take comfort in, being secure that it is for his life.—They say there's more care and trouble in keeping an estate, than getting it; as for the gout, there may be some trouble in getting it, though that is mixed with pleasure too; but no man is put to the least care or trouble for the safe keeping of the gout. Possibly a wise and worthy person may secure his virtue against dangerous temptations, but then he must be always upon his guard; but let him take as little care of himself as he pleases, he shall never have the less gout for his loose way of living.

Our author now concludes his epistle of seventy pages, by professing that he is unable to proceed, in consequence of an abatement of his paroxysms, "sensible," as he observes, "that no man can do honour to the gout by a just and adequate panegyric, except he, at the time of writing, feels it in extremity."

DISEASE OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR.

Many have been the opinions expressed by different persons, of the nature of the disease with which God chose to afflict Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon; and some have imagined that he was really transformed into a beast. He is indeed said to have been driven from the company of men for seven years, and to have dwelt among the beasts of the field. It is said also that he lived, like them, on grass, and that his hair and nails grew out till they resembled the claws of birds. But at the expiration of his period of exile, every symptom of his malady disappeared, and his understanding and his kingdom were both restored to him.

It seems evident from this history that our royal patient must have suffered from an excessive degree of *hypochondriacal mania*; and that under its influence, he ran into the woods, fancied himself an ox, and partook of the same food as the herd to which he imagined himself attached. Labouring for seven years under so severe a calamity, how could it have been otherwise than that, from personal neglect, his hair and nails should have grown to a great length, and given rise to the comparison spoken of above.

Virgil relates the case of the daughter of Proetus, who was afflicted with this disease, and ran into the woods, imagining herself a cat.—Servius, too, speaks of maniacs, who, fancying themselves cows, filled the pastures with their bellowing.—There is also recorded a remarkable instance of this disorder in an husbandman of Padua, who imagined himself a wolf, and attacked, and even killed several persons in the fields. When taken, he persevered in declaring himself a real wolf, and that the only difference which existed between himself and other animals of the same class, consisted in the inversion of his skin and hair.

There seems then to have been nothing mysterious or unnatural in the disease of Nebuchadnezzar. It is a disorder which in its milder forms is not uncommon among us, and which often resists the most powerful and well directed remedies. According to Ovid, however, the physician Melampus possessed the power of removing this disorder *per carmen et herbas*—by means of his charms and herbs; and we are inclined to think the failure of more recent endeavours to give relief to hypochondriacs, is in some measure owing to a neglect of the former, and too exclusive a reliance on the latter remedy,—to a neglect of those means which immedi-

ately affect the understanding, and too exclusive a reliance on medicinal substances.

IRITIS.

Iritis is usually treated with mercury, and when it is the result of syphilitic taint, that article is usually considered essentially necessary to the removal of the disease. One of the most distinguished Surgeons in Edinburgh informed us, that of sixteen cases which had occurred in his practice within a few months, fifteen had been successfully treated by antiphlogistic means, but *without mercury*, and that in the other case he used calomel, and the man lost his eye. Yet all these cases he considered as secondary to syphilis.

CYNANCHE TRACHEALIS.

The Croup has generally been attacked by repeated doses of calomel, and this medicine has been almost exclusively depended on since the publication of Dr Hamilton's book. It may not be uninteresting to our readers to learn that in cases of croup it is now generally considered by the best practitioners as having occasioned sphacelation of the gums, and other serious difficulties, and is therefore laid aside by even Dr Hamilton himself. The yellow subsulphate of mercury is, we believe, a more safe and efficacious remedy in this disease.

ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

Acute Rheumatism has at different times and in different countries been considered as a disease which required phlogistic and antiphlogistic remedies. Though various articles have been recommended by the advocates of both systems, we know of none more uniformly successful than *Bark*. It was used and recommended by Grainger, Dr Aiken, Sir Walter Farquhar, Dr Lettson, Sir Lucas Peppys, Willan, Dr Saunders, Drs Heberden, sen. and jun., Sir George Baker, Sir Edward Wilmot, John Fothergil, Haygarth, Fordyce, and others.

DARKNESS OF FORMER DAYS.

We find it stated, about 150 years ago, in very good Latin, that Turmeric is good for the Jaundice because it is yellow, and fox's lungs for the asthma because that animal has strong powers of respiration, as is proved by the long and hard run he makes when hunted.

The great Boyle seriously recommends the thigh-bone of an executed criminal, prepared in a prescribed manner, as a remedy in certain disorders.

Boerhaave believed the blood owed its red colour to iron, and therefore recommended it in chlorosis. Thus have we suggested an efficacious remedy by a fanciful and erroneous theory—for it has proved the best remedy in that disease, though later chemists have proved that it acts on other principles.

In the materia medica of Sir Theodore Mayerne, who was physician to three Sovereigns of England, the first half of the 17th century, are found the Balsam of Bats for hypochondriacs; also remedies from certain parts of adders, sucking whelps, earth worms, &c.—the bowels of a mole cut open alive, mummy made of the lungs of a man who died a violent death, amulets, &c. &c.

The rust of Telephus' spear, mentioned in Homer as a cure for the wound it inflicted, was *æugo æris*, for weapons were then made of brass, and this substance is found very good for cleansing wounds and inclining them to heal.

Inoculation for small-pox, was practised in India, Turkey and Wales, on a superstitious principle—the charm was supposed to consist in leaving a piece of money as pay for the matter inserted. We should have

no particular objection to the prevalence of the same opinion among the people in our own days.

Sir Kenelm Digby's sympathetic powder would cure a wound inflicted by a sword, by merely being sprinkled on the blade of the instrument that inflicted the wound.

So late as the middle of the 18th century, persons with hydrophobia were dreaded, and for fear of a bite, abandoned to their awful fate without the least assistance, and often suffocated to death between mattresses. The greatest confidence was placed in the solemn mysteries of amulets and charms, in eating the liver of the mad dog broiled, tying the skin of an hyæna about the arm of the sick, &c. &c.

The Pennsylvania Indian Doctors of the greatest skill, believed that to follow nature was the grand secret of success; and so far did they carry it that the water in which an emetic was to be given, they directed to be drawn up a stream—a cathartic down a stream.

REVIEW.

Description of the European Olive Tree. Paris, August, 1818. pp. 43.

This interesting volume was written by our countryman, Augustus L. Hillhouse, Esq. for the North American Sylva. Mr. H. was induced to undertake it by the request of his friend, Mr. A. Michaux, whose researches into the botanical productions of this country, have made his name as well known by Americans generally, as his learning, his industry and his works, are to men of science in every quarter of the globe. He had procured a translation of the first volume of his Sylva, when he became acquainted with Mr. Hillhouse, and engaged him to complete the work which had been thus commenced by another. The manner in which this task was executed, may be learned from the fact that the translation of the first tome was afterwards rejected, and another procured from the pen which had so faithfully presented to the English reader the investigations contained in the remaining volumes. Being acquainted with these facts, our readers will be prepared to regard with attention the view we propose to give of the "Description" before us.

This Essay is the result of a series of inquiries whether the climate and soil of some parts of the United States are not such as to allow of the cultivation of the Olive Tree. Not satisfied with consulting Columella, Pliny, the New Duhamel, the Memoirs of the Academy of Marseilles, &c., and examining accurately, in fact, all the most judicious ancient and modern works on the subject of his researches, our author travelled on foot into those provinces which were suited to afford him the fairest field for personal observation; and in the following sentence, with which the book commences, will be found a concise expression both of the result of his investigations, and the motive which led to them.

"Since the introduction of the vine, the Olive seems principally wanting to complete the vegetable riches of the United States; and, probably, it might be cultivated with success on some portion of their soil."

The grounds on which the practicability of cultivating the Olive in the United States must be determined, are very evident, and by ascertaining the climate and soil in which it flourishes, it appears to be an easy matter to come to a positive conclusion. With these impressions, our author sought, in the history of the tree, the precise circumstances in which it originally grew. This first effort was however attended with little success.

"It is difficult," says he, "or rather impossible, to assign with precision the native climate of the Olive: the most probable opinion is that it came originally from Asia Minor, and that it was also indigenous to Egypt, or introduced into that country at an early period of its settlement. It was transplanted to Greece by the Egyptian colonies; the Phenicians probably carried it to Carthage, and the Carthaginians to Spain. Before its introduction into Spain, the Phenicians carried on a lucrative trade with the Spaniards in oil, which they exchanged for bars of gold.—Pliny informs us that this culture was unknown in Spain and Italy in the reign of Tarquinius Priscus, but that when once introduced it was rapidly diffused. The Olive was planted in France by the Phœcean colony which founded Marseilles, 600 years before Christ."

The following facts seem to promise more for the object in view.

"The Olive has flourished chiefly on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, between the 36th and the 44th degrees of latitude. It still abounds in Greece; in the northern provinces it requires to be placed on hill-sides exposed to the south, that it may be warmed by the reflected heat."

As far then as *climate* is concerned, we can see no reason why the southern section of our union should not be suitable for the cultivation of this tree. As it regards the *soil*, it has been said that Olives, like *Hebrew roots*, flourish best in barren ground. This assertion, however, is as groundless in one case as in the other.

"Perhaps one of the finest countries of the world are the Persian provinces of Ghilan and Mazenderan, which lie north of the Caspian Mountains, between the 37th and 38th degrees of latitude. The soil is fertile, and watered by innumerable streams that gush from the bosom of these mountains; the surface is even, and, from the depression of the level and from the proximity of the Caspian Sea, the climate is mild and equable. The Olive is found here with the Sugar-cane, the Orange Tree, and other productions of warm climates, which do not flourish in the more southern parts of this dry and sterile kingdom."

But whether the most barren or the richest soil is most favourable to this valuable production, the United States contains within its limits almost every variety;—besides, according to Mr. H. the nature of the soil is of less importance than the temperature of the climate; for he says—

"The Olive accommodates itself to almost every variety of soil; but it shuns a redundancy of moisture, and prefers loose, calcarious, fertile lands mingled with stones."

The difficulty with which it is deprived of its vitality, is a matter of great importance, and tends to confirm the belief that its introduction into this country might be effected without serious impediments.

"Notwithstanding the delicacy of its complexion, the Olive is extremely tenacious of life. When the trunk has perished by frost or by fire, it sprouts anew, and we are assured that if a bit of the bark, with a thin layer of wood, is buried in the earth, it becomes a perfect plant. In this respect the Olive is the polypus of vegetables. It is multiplied by all the modes that are in use for the propagation of trees; by sowing the seed, by layers, by slips, by cuttings of the root, and

by sprouts separated from the trunk or from the roots of the parent stock."

"To accelerate the germination, the stones may be kept in fine mould during the summer and autumn, and sown the beginning of January."

"All these operations are performed at the close of winter or the opening of spring. The length of time which the young plants should remain in the nursery varies with their size and strength, but it rarely exceeds four or five years. During this period the ground should be kept mellow and clean, and occasionally watered in the summer, if the season is dry."

"The Olive arrived at an advanced age may be transplanted in the same manner as the young tree."

In this age of improvements, may we not hope that some of the liberal, spirited, and enterprising members of our profession at the south, who are daily becoming more numerous and enlightened, will make an attempt which, unless there is in climate something answering to *idiosyncrasy* in the human frame, which forbids the growth of the Olive, might in all probability subserve their pecuniary interests, as well as those higher objects which they seek in common with their professional brethren. As to the first of these inducements Mr. H. observes that—

"The produce of the soil is said to be one third greater when planted with Olives, than under any other species of culture; and oil is the principal article of commerce which affords the Athenians the enjoyments of life and the means of paying their taxes."

It is true that we have more objects of labour than the Athenians, and fewer taxes perhaps to pay;—but every calculation we have been able to make leads to the conclusion that an Olive grove at the south, if properly managed, would be a novel and interesting addition to the vegetable riches of the warmer climes; and although it might afford but little to charm the eye, it would yet be, as an Italian writer has beautifully observed, "a mine upon the surface of the earth."

To the physician this is a subject of peculiar interest, since the fruit of this tree exerts a powerful influence on the corporeal system. As an article of diet, the olives themselves are delicious, and the oil cooling, laxative, and nutritious. As an agent in the prevention or cure of disease, the "*Oleum Europæ*" has long been celebrated, and is daily becoming more extensively known and more generally useful.

We are acquainted with several patres-familium who are in the habit of removing the common complaints, colds, and slight fevers of their children, by a bath of olive-oil. It is decidedly beneficial, when applied outwardly to the nose or chest of infants who are troubled with the snuffles, or what the French call *Rhume de la poitrine*; and we have witnessed its immediate and salutary efficacy when administered internally, in case of dysentery. In countries where the Olive tree is cultivated, the oil is used freely, as we use butter, and in various ways mingled with the ordinary diet. Mr. Jackson informs us in his travels, that the *Coolies*, or porters, who are employed in the oil-stores at Tunis, seldom eat any thing but bread and oil. It is also related of these *gentry*, with how much truth we will not venture to assert, that they are in the constant habit of smearing themselves all over with this substance, and keeping their garments well soaked with it; and that in this expedient they find a sure safeguard against the plague, the sting of the scorpion, and the

bites of musquitoes and the venomous reptile which infest their residence.

We have no room to give a detail of the various methods in which this substance may be made useful as a medicine, and we presume it is unnecessary, as our readers must already have had occasion, in their own practice, to witness its virtues. We hope then that this experience, uniting with other motives, may induce them to enrich themselves and their country, by introducing within its borders a tree of such eminent value.—We are aware that we have not discussed this subject in all its bearings; we are aware that the capriciousness of our climate is more dangerous to vegetables than its inclemency, and that in our warmest latitudes, the difference of temperature in the course of one day, is almost as great as that in a whole year in the south of Italy.—

"But with all these disadvantages, tracts uniting the conditions necessary for the growth of the Olive may probably be found sufficiently extensive for our wants. The possibility of its flourishing on our shores has been demonstrated by at least one experiment. While the Floridas were held by the English, an adventurer of that nation led a colony of Greeks into the eastern province, and founded the settlement of New-Smyrna. The principal treasure which they brought from their native clime was the Olive. Bartram, who visited this settlement in 1775, describes it as a flourishing town: its prosperity, however, was of momentary duration; driven to despair by hardship and oppression, and precluded from escape by land, where they were intercepted by the wandering savages, a part of these unhappy exiles conceived the hardy enterprise of flying to the Havana in an open boat: the rest removed to St. Augustine when the Spaniards resumed possession of the country. In 1783 a few decaying huts and several large Olives were the only remaining traces of their industry."

INTELLIGENCE.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE IN SOUTH CAROLINA.—At the School of Medicine recently established in Charleston, South Carolina, the following wholesome regulations and arrangements were adopted. In order to entitle an individual to examination for a degree, it will be necessary that he shall have attained the age of 21 years, be of good moral character, and have studied medicine for two years with some established practitioner. He shall also have taken the ticket of each Professor for two courses of lectures, or shall have attended one full course at some other respectable medical school, previously to his becoming a member of this Institution. Students who have for two seasons taken the tickets of any or all of the Professors, shall be thereafter entitled to admission into his or their lecture room, without farther expense.

The lectures will commence on the second Monday in November next, and will continue for five months. The Anatomical Lecture Room is lighted from the top of the building, and the seats are elevated sufficiently for the convenience of the students. Arrangements for private dissections are particularly attended to, and every facility afforded for the acquirement of a minute knowledge of the structure of the human frame, and the preparation and preservation of

its different parts. The Chemical Laboratory is contained in the same building, and such apparatus procured as is necessary to a full experimental course. The Library belonging to the Medical Society will be opened to the students upon the most liberal terms, and it is only doing justice to that body to acknowledge that their collection of medical works is among the largest and most select in the United States.

The privilege of visiting the patients in the Marine Hospital and Poor-House, affords the best opportunities for the acquisition of practical knowledge without additional expense. During the daily attendance of the Physicians of these Institutions, such clinical remarks are made as are of importance to the medical student. All operations in surgery, occurring in these establishments, will be free to the class, in addition to such cases in private practice as may be operated on in the public institutions.

From the statements made, it appears that every opportunity of acquiring medical information, will be afforded to the southern student by the Medical College of South Carolina, and that at a rate of expenditure very trivial. But some advantages of a peculiar character are connected with this Institution, which it may be proper to point out. No place in the United States offers as great opportunities for the acquisition of anatomical knowledge, subjects being obtained from among the coloured population in sufficient number for every purpose, and proper dissections carried on, without offending any individual in the community. Those impediments which exist in so many other places to the prosecution of this study, are not here thrown in the path of the student, public feeling being rather favourable than hostile to the advancement of the science of anatomy. In addition, the southern student can nowhere else receive correct instruction on the diseases of his own climate, or the peculiar morbid affections of the coloured people.

MEDICAL DEGREES.—At Yale College the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on Messrs. Augustine P. Beers, Zacheus W. Bingham, Nelson Carpenter, Hiram Cleaveland, John Goulding, Increase Harrison, Edw. H. Leflingwell, Gerry H. Minor, Orson Osborn, Henry B. Porter, James Purcell, Charles Rowland, George Taylor, George W. Wolcott, Thomas S. Williamson, Thomas Wilbur. The honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on Drs Andrew Huntington, Noah A. Lacy, Timothy P. Beers, Allyn Hyde, and Henry Mitchell.

HEALTH OF CHARLESTON AND N. ORLEANS.—Three new cases of yellow fever were reported at Charleston on the 4th, and seven on the 5th inst.—The latest accounts from New-Orleans are unfavourable. A paper of August 17th, remarks, "The interments in the Protestant cemetery of persons who died of yellow fever during the last week, has exceeded fourfold those of the like period preceding; and several new cases, some of the most malignant type, were reported yesterday."

VACCINATION.—At a meeting of the Philosophical Society of Cambridge, (Eng.) a paper was read by the President, Dr Haviland, on the cases of secondary small-pox, and of small-pox after vaccination, which had occurred amongst members of the University during the last year; out of twenty seven cases, five only were severe, and three of those, which were cases of secondary small-pox, were much more so than the two others, which occurred after vaccination.

RECOVERY FROM THE EFFECTS OF LIGHTNING.—A letter from a gentleman in Ohio, to his friend in Washington city, dated August 24, gives an account of a successful attempt to resuscitate a person apparently

killed by lightning, which may induce others hereafter placed in similar situations, to use like exertions.—The means employed were venesection, bathing the feet and hands in warm salt water, and the face with camphorated spirits. "The moment of the application of the last, he gave the first signs of returning life, when his lungs gave a faint heave for air, but at first without effect. It was seven or eight hours before his lungs were sufficiently inflated to give respiration any thing like its natural order. During this process no pen can describe the misery which he endured. It could only be expressed by the contortions of his face and limbs, and his feeble attempts to utter groans. He is now so far recovered as partly to exercise his reason, although he is very weak, and has generally a high fever,—a natural consequence of such a case."

POISONING.—A distressing circumstance took place in the family of Mr. George Barnard of this city during the past week, which we hope will operate as a caution to those who are in the habit of eating mushrooms. A quantity of this vegetable had been prepared for breakfast, of which they all partook. Two members were soon seized with violent illness, and a son of Mr. Seymour, about 14 years old, expired on the second day. One of the children of Mr. B. is now dangerously sick. The species of plant used in this instance is denominated the *white mushroom*, which is said to be a deadly poison. Indeed, so deleterious were its effects, that a cat, which subsequently licked the platter on which it had been served up, expired in a short time after.—*Connecticut Courant*.

ELECTRICITY.—When water is frozen rapidly in an electrical jar, the outside coating not being insulated, the jar receives a feeble electrical charge, the inside being positive, the outside negative. If this ice be rapidly thawed, an inverse result is obtained,—the interior becomes positive, the outside negative.

SOAP.—The hardness and smell of soaps have their origin and modifications in certain chemical principles. M. Chevreul has lately been employed in the investigation of these principles, with a view to improve the manufacture of this article, so essential in domestic economy, in surgery and the arts. These experiments are detailed in Vol. XXIII, An. de Chimie.

ARTIFICIAL CHALYBEATE WATER.—If a few pieces of silver coin (says Dr Hare) be alternated with pieces of sheet iron, on placing the pile in water it soon acquires a chalybeate taste and yellowish hue, and in 24 hours flocks of oxide of iron appear. Hence by replenishing with water a vessel, in which such a pile is placed, after each draught, we may obtain a substitute for a chalybeate spring.

ACTION OF MECONIC ACID ON THE HUMAN ECONOMY.—In order to ascertain with precision the effects of pure meconic acid and the meconiates on the human system, some of these substances were very carefully prepared by Signi. Fenoglio, Cesare, and Blengine, of Turin, and administered in cases where their results could be observed. It was found that eight grains of any of these substances produced no deleterious effects on dogs, crows, or frogs; nor on a horse even when the dose was repeated. The meconiates were also administered to two persons in cases of tania, in doses of four grains, but without producing any effect either on the persons or the worms. In those cases where death has been produced by doses of a grain of meconic acid, Dr Fenoglio attributes the results to the defective preparation of the substance, and the presence of morphia in it; and the symptoms observed seem to accord with this opinion.

JALAPINE, OR JALAPIA.—Mr. Hume, jr. of Long-Acre, (London) is said to have discovered a vegeto-alkaline principle in Jalap, and proposes to call it *Jalapine*. It is procured in the following manner; coarsely powdered Jalap is macerated for twelve or fourteen days, in strong acetic acid; a highly coloured tincture is thus obtained, which when filtered, is to be supersaturated with ammonia, and the mixture violently shaken; a sabulous deposit will fall rapidly, and a few crystals will form on the sides of the vessel. The deposit and crystals are to be collected and washed with dis-

tilled water, again dissolved in a small quantity of concentrated acetic acid, and re-precipitated by ammonia added in excess, which throws down the Jalapine in small white acicular crystals. Jalapine is without any perceptible taste or smell, and seems to be heavier than Morphia, Quinine, or other substances of this class; it is scarcely soluble in cold water, and only to a small extent in hot water. Ether has no effect upon it; alcohol is its proper solvent. Very little trouble is necessary to purify Jalapine from colouring or extractive matter, for which it appears to have but a slight affinity.—Mr. Hume has not made many experiments on this substance, but thinks that one ounce of Jalap will, on careful treatment, afford about 5 grs. of the substance.

KELP.—The new article of commerce lately brought to New-York from Salina, in that State, under the name of Kelp, has undergone a chemical analysis by Professor Griscom, and is found to consist of muriate of soda, [common salt,] sulphate of soda, sulphate of lime, carbonates of soda and lime, with a very small portion of sand, the whole slightly coloured by iron, and containing 17 per cent of free alkali. From this analysis, Dr Griscom gives it as his opinion, that the article may be profitably employed in the manufacture of soap, probably of glass, and other coarse purposes for which common potash is sometimes used. This article is understood to be abundant about the salt works at Salina.

LONGEVITY.—A woman named Marie de Brakeleer, died in July last, in Flanders, at the age of one hundred and three. She fully retained her faculties to the last, and what is more remarkable, a head of long, thick, black hair.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending September 13; from the Health-Office Returns.

Sept. 10th.—Mary Kelley, 6 mo. 11th.—Mary Mefron, 31; —Howard, 3 weeks. 12th.—Margaret Russell, 13 mo.; Augustus Amory; Henry Putney, 21; Harriet Bradlee, 12 mo.; Theodore Dickinson, 6 mo.; Celia Sigourney, 74; Mary S. Calrow, 22; Harriet K. Badger, 12 mo. 13th.—Francis W. Litchfield, 12 mo.; James Lakin; David W. Brown; Sally Virginia; Maria Simmonds; Cornick Rooney, 41; William L. Cheever, 7 weeks; Sarah E. James, 15 mo.; Mary Gray, 37. 14th.—Rebecca Powell, 40; Catharine Cassey, 4 days; Otis Child, 35; Joseph Geyer, 29; Lydia T. Adams, 19 mo.; Benjamin Mecum, 52; Charles Lynch, 33; Nathaniel Coverley, 40. 15th.—William Safford, 42; Isaac W. Drew, 8 mo.; Charles W. Osborn, 3 mo.; Hannah Whitmore, 5 mo.; Abby Mendell, 19. 16th.—Esther Obree; Thomas Dascomb, 10 mo.; Aaron Mason, 11 mo.; Stephen Hooper, 39; Anna Wallis, 47; Eliza Meriam, 33. 17th.—Isaac Durell, 62; Joseph L. Roberts, 11 days; Charles L. Wendell, 2. 18th.—Child of Ebenezer Beard; Sarah Curricate, 28; Jane Johnson.

Canker, 2—Disease of the Heart, 1—Cholera Infantum, 5—Dysentery, 5—Old age, 1—Consumption, 9—Teething, 1—Dropsy, 1—Intemperance, 1—Cholera Morbus, 1—Infantile, 1—Dropsy in the Head, 1—Accidental, 1—Lung Fever, 3—Stillborn, 1—Typhus Fever, 1.

DIED.—In Pittsfield, Mass. Dr Trumbull Dorrance, aged 51.

To Teachers of Anatomy and Surgery.

THE Subscriber is engaged in making a Magnified Brain, from four to five feet round, in plaster and wax, minutely accurate, and naturally coloured, exhibiting the origin of the cerebral nerves. It revolves upon an axis, admirably calculated for demonstration to a large class, at a distance from the demonstrator.—Gentlemen desirous of securing one of these, are requested to forward their orders immediately. Price 40 dollars, without the arteries, and with them, 50 dollars. School-street, Boston. H. WILLIAMS.

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BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1824.

No. 20.

OBSERVATIONS.

MEDICAL POLICE.

We shall favour our readers with some very just and useful remarks, addressed by a medical gentleman to his professional brethren. Those we publish to-day are on the subject of admitting members into the practice of Physic, and we shall hereafter diffuse his sentiments relative to Empiricism, Etiquette, the mode of obtaining Medical Offices, Behaviour towards Patients, Charges, and the advantages of Consolidation.

OF THE ADMISSION OF MEMBERS.

Believing the introduction of unsuitable persons into the profession to be one great cause of its depreciation, I, in the first place, solicit the attention of those engaged in the honourable office of preparing others to undertake its arduous duties.

Deeply sensible of the importance of your task, you should conscientiously inquire whether the candidates possess the necessary prerequisites. If he betray any great intellectual or moral obliquity, or an ignorance of subordinate branches of education, discourage him. If you find him qualified, apprise him of the difficulties he must encounter, for many choose the profession from the erroneous idea of its being of easy pursuit, become discouraged at the approach of unexpected obstacles, and either retire in disgust, or remain mere drones and loiterers in the work.

If he engage in preparation, keep constantly before him its final object. Let him not only enjoy your theoretical precepts, but also your practical teaching. Let him not only *hear* but *see*.—Be not content to amuse him with the picture, but show him the reality. By neglect of this, many young men of respectable talents, have been deceived. Having acquired the best theories, and been *told* the most successful rules of practice, they advance with a confidence almost amounting to enthusiasm. But how mortifying is their discomfiture! At the first onset they find they must encounter an enemy that observes no established rule of combat. With the necessary weapons at their command, they strike not, for they know not the point of attack. Their knowledge avails not. They fear to blunder, and are doomed to yield without an effort, while the very confidence of the patient gives an additional sting to remorse already too severe. They do not merely direct, but guide. Not only describe the road, but travel it with your young charge.

Those of you who hold the high rank of public teachers, and have the disposal of the first medical honour, should be unremitting in your exertions. Be not over anxious to please. If you possess the happy talent of uniting pleasure with instruction, exercise it; if not, remember, to convey the latter is your duty, and it will procure you more lasting fame. As your labors are arduous, your reward should be liberal, and you should be content with the just emolument of your station, using no improper means to increase it. All who look to you for instruction, have equal claims, and all the time and attention

you can devote, should be employed for their common improvement. You should undertake to instruct no more *privately*, than the nature and extent of your *practical* advantages will justify. Do not occupy in quizzing (as it is usually termed) intervals of time that could be more profitably spent in visits to the sick. This plan, besides injuring the student, betrays a spirit of monopoly unworthy the cultivators of a liberal art.

Encourage by all honourable means private instructors. They both profit the pupil, and increase the respectability and fame of a public institution, for every additional opportunity of acquiring knowledge, has some influence. Besides, your countenance encourages individuals to strive for higher attainment, and thus advance professional worth.

There is no effort you can make, too great for the object. Pupils come to you from a great distance and at vast expense. Perhaps the hard earnings of a parent, which could be ill spared from his scanty coffers, are yielded to you in high expectation. Perhaps the future interest of a whole family is at your disposal. He who calls you his preceptor, may be its only hope. Moreover, even the fate of an entire neighbourhood may hereafter hang on his practical success. How carefully then should you look to his improvement!

The last and most important office is the granting of medical honours, and affording the more direct passport to public confidence. In your examinations for the degree of Doctor of Medicine, you should have no partialities or resentments to gratify. Exact a strict compliance with all the prescribed requisites, canvass well the merits of the candidate, and if you have objections, state them, with all possible delicacy, at the proper time and place, otherwise you may so discourage him as to paralyze his future efforts. If he is bound to present a medical dissertation, you are under equal obligations carefully and deliberately to read it. Want of time will be no excuse for allowing ignorance to pass, or injuring the credit and prospects of the applicant by hasty misconceptions. Expect not a mere reiteration of your own views, but rather cherish a spirit of inquiry. Allow no idle disputation, but give due weight to the arguments of your young opponent, and if his position is well sustained be not offended. Anger rouses resentment, and the vexation of being unkindly repulsed cannot easily be forgotten. Make no unfair exactions, for by these you forfeit your claim to future respect.

Finally, when you come to a decision, the man must be lost in the professor. The delicacy of friendship must not, by permitting you to smuggle pretenders into the list, impose on society, and undervalue the labours of the deserving candidate. Solid worth should be the only claim to notice, and this should be always acknowledged. Then would the diploma be a recommendation to favour, and a promise of usefulness, and then names of professors have, *at least*, the weight of their private testimony. Custom or tenderness will not exonerate the man from censure who

can, in a public capacity, bestow praise unsanctioned by his judgment, or whose pen will record what his tongue *dare* not utter.

SUDDEN DEATH.

When sudden death happens in the street, the nearest door should be immediately opened for the reception of the body. In all cases, interment should be deferred till signs of putrefaction appear, but especially in those where no *graduation of disease* has preceded, as in cases of hysteries, apoplexy, external injuries, drowning, suffocation, &c. The effect of *sound* upon animal life is astonishing. The beat of a drum may have a very beneficial effect upon persons in a state of suspended animation. At one time, a scream, extorted by grief, proved the means of resuscitating a person supposed to be dead.

MEDICAL MAGNETISM.

The imaginations of the Germans having been more recently tutored, are less under control than those of the other countries of Europe which have been familiarized to the wonders of science: and many wild opinions and systems, exploded elsewhere, are still harboured in Germany. Astrologers, illuminati, and communicants with the invisible world, are credited in all the circles of the empire; even in Vienna, fire-philosophers are striving to transmute lead into gold; and professors in all the Universities still inculcate Kant's metaphysics. These aberrations of the fancy are enhanced by the intense application and the recluse lives of the learned Germans; by which their peculiar speculations become rivetted in their minds, without being modified, corrected or contradicted by the discordant opinions of others; for they seldom mingle in ordinary society, and are far less men of the world than the literary class in Italy, France, or England. Hence it is, that some of the fantastic systems of the middle ages, tinged with modern discoveries, are occasionally revived in Germany, and published as new inventions.

About forty years ago, Mismar flourished in Vienna, and, after acquiring an astonishing reputation there, went to Paris to promulgate his discovery to Frenchmen. This was nothing less than the grand arcanon, the universal remedy, which philosophers had so long searched for in vain: and superior to empirical secresy, he openly avowed that his remedy was magnetism; a power which, he averred, when directed scientifically through the human frame, removed every obstruction, and restored all distempered parts to pristine health. He fitted up in a spacious apartment a mysterious machine to contain a potent magnet, from the centre of which a number of steel rods emanated. Multitudes of the sick, with every variety of disease, assembled there daily, most anxious to be magnetized, and confident of being cured. Every evening lectures were given with the benevolent design of imparting all his knowledge to his pupils, and of instructing them in his infallible method of distributing health. But after this splendid beginning, and after many thousand patients had

submitted to his treatment, as neither the maladies nor the mortality of Paris declined, physic, which for a long time, alas! had been loathed, again came into fashion.

ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

In our last number, we spoke of the use of *Bark* in this disease; and not stopping at our own experience, we recommended its employment on the authority of those distinguished ornaments of the profession in Great Britain, by whom it was used with uniform success.—We have since received a communication on the same subject, from a learned and valued correspondent.—The first part of the communication relates to the history of the remedy, which, having been given in our article last week, we deem it unnecessary to insert; but are happy to favour our readers with the account of the principle on which it acts in removing this tedious and painful disorder.

The principle of the practice is this:—It considers the acute rheumatism to be an *intermittent fever*, attended with acute pain in those parts well known to be commonly infested with this painful disease. The bark is to be given in the period of *remission only*, and never in the exacerbation of the fever; and not even then, until the fiery edge of the painful paroxysm is blunted by antimonials, and by gently cleansing the bowels. In other words, the constricted skin must be in a degree relaxed, and then the bark is thrown in, to obviate that debility, (probably in the capillary system?) on which the fever and its concomitant fever depends. Should the depleting process be pushed too far, we change the *acute* into a *chronic* rheumatism, accompanied with a *coldness* of the part affected, which requires guaiacum, electricity, terebinthinae, and the use of the flesh-brush. The marked distinction between inflammatory fever and acute rheumatism, should be sedulously attended to. W.

MEDICINAL PLANTS,

WHICH MAY BE CULTIVATED IN MASSACHUSETTS.

The field of nature is diversified by an immense variety of vegetable productions. Some are designed to support animal life and vigour; others to restore health and energy to the unfortunate victim of disease. The same soil which affords us the means of sustenance and wealth, offers also an antidote to the banes of life. As the cultivation of the former is a source of affluence and happiness, it is encouraged by some noble spirits whose exertions deserve success and gratitude. It is to be hoped that physicians who have an opportunity, may engage with the same ardor in the promotion of those Medical Plants which may be cultivated in a climate like our own. Indeed it is a libel on the fertility of our soil and the enterprise of our people, to obtain from abroad those *materiae medicae* which a little perseverance and a little healthful industry would find flourishing in our own gardens. To collect and rear those plants would be no contemptible object to the Physician who lives on a farm in the country. He might thus procure his vegetable medicines at a trifling expense. He might prescribe them with more confidence of success—being beyond the reach of the avaricious speculator, who, regardless of the welfare of his fellow-creatures, and of all but his own pecuniary interest, adulterates his medicines as he would spirits, and that too with as little conviction of his error or dread of its results. He might thus find an employment and a pleasure in cultivating his professional garden, and ex-

tend his knowledge of medical botany; and, what to a refined mind is no small gratification, he would merit the gratitude of his friends and his country.

The following are among the plants and trees which it is believed may be reared in this part of the country, and would possess virtues not inferior to those of the same kind which are at present procured from abroad.

1. *Papaver Somniferum*. (*White Poppy*.) The leaves, stalks and capsules abound with the well known Opium.

2. *Hyosciamus Niger*. (*Black Henbane*) Which combines a laxative with a sedative power. The herb and seed are used in medicine.

3. *Datura Stramonium*. (*Thorn Apple*.) Useful in diseases of the brain and skin, and in other complaints; also in dilating the pupil of the eye. The leaves and seeds are both useful.

4. *Digitalis Purpurea*. (*Purple Fox-glove*.) Important as a stimulant on the absorbents, &c.; the leaves are to be collected.

5. *Conium Maculatum*. (*Hemlock*.) Its narcotic power is well known to every scholar who is acquainted with the history of Socrates and Phocion; the leaves and seeds possess similar virtues.

6. *Aconitum Napellus*. (*Monk's Hood*.) Useful in glandular and other complaints. The herb and root are to be preserved for use.

These six are generally found in mountainous countries, and flourish best in hilly, gravelly, dry, sandy situations; except the Hemlock, which requires more moisture than the others.

7. *Amomum Zingiber*. (*Ginger*.) This is cultivated in the Indies as potatoes are by us, and like them dug annually. It is already introduced in some gardens in this State and in Maine, where it flourishes best in warm situations. The warming and carminative virtues of its roots are well known.

8. *Veratrum Album*. (*White Hellebore*.) The root of this plant is supposed by some to be the base of the Eau Medicinale d'Husson. It is best cultivated in low, wet, meadowy, swampy places, though it is found wild among the mountains of Switzerland and Germany.

9. *Valeriana Officinalis*. (*Wild Valerian*.) This also flourishes best in marshy and shadowy situations; though like the last, it sometimes grows on dry heaths and elevated pastures.

10. *Gentiana Lutea*. (*Gentian*.) A species is found on the lawns of Pennsylvania, and might probably be cultivated here. The root of this and the Valerian, is the part used in medicine.

11. *Menyanthes Trifoliata*. (*Marsh Trefoil*.) The name of this beautiful plant indicates the situation in which it should be cultivated. The leaves are an excellent tonic.

12. *Anthemis Nobilis*. (*Camomile*.) This plant, whose flowers possess so many medicinal qualities, requires a warm soil.

13. *Eupatorium Perfoliatum*. (*Thorough Wort*.) This is found in abundance by the sides of running streams, and may be cultivated in a wet soil. Its leaves and flowers are valuable to the Physician.

14. *Phytolacca Decandra*. (*American Night Shade*.) The green berries and leaves, and the old roots, are a good emetic, and, when externally applied, a stimulant. The young shoots and ripe fruit are inert.

15. *Cassia Marilandica*. (*American Senna*.) This plant is easily raised from the seeds; and, as the leaves are a good substitute for the Senna we procure at so great an expense from Egypt, it ought to be more generally cultivated.

16. *Rheum Palmatum*. (*Palmated Rhubarb*.) This is not injured by our cold, and may be reared on high sandy places with ease.

17. *Chenopodium Anthelminticum*. (*Jerusalem Cal.*) This deserves to be more generally introduced into gardens. The whole plant is used.

18. *Glycyrrhiza Glabra*. (*Liquorice*.) This plant is found in Vermont and Ohio, and may probably be cultivated here.

19. *Ulmus Americana*. (*American or Slippery Elm*.) A decoction of the inner bark of this tree is found exceedingly salutary in catarrhs, pleurisies, &c. and its effects in dysentery are almost miraculous. Indeed this tree is of so general utility, that it has obtained the name of *Cure All* among the women who know its medical virtues. It ought to be cultivated, in parts where it does not already grow wild.

Nor are these all which will withstand the rigors of our climate; many others, no less important in medicine, might be added to the list. It is sincerely and ardently to be hoped that gentlemen who are acquainted with the value of these articles, will be convinced that they may be cultivated on their own estates with ease, pleasure and economy; and that, by prosecuting the design with zeal, they will repel the reflection which its former neglect has too justly cast on the spirit of our profession.

ABSORPTION.

Our readers will doubtless recollect that the ancients believed this function to be performed by the *veins*, and that this opinion was universally prevalent until Mascagni, an Italian anatomist of great celebrity, discovered that absorption was the peculiar office of those lymphatics which form of themselves, a system distinct from that of the sanguineous vessels. With so much facility was the doctrine of Mascagni understood, and so easily was it demonstrated, that it soon acquired general confidence. A few years ago, Dr Magendie, a French Physician and Physiologist, whose learning and wonderful powers of discrimination are well known to the scientific world, instituted a series of experiments, not to prove that the doctrine of Mascagni was groundless, but that absorption is performed by the veins.—These experiments were repeated by many, and by ourselves among the rest; and all who repeated them were convinced that various substances might find their way from the intestinal canal into the mass of blood, when the thoracic duct was tied and even entirely separated;—a fact which gave a currency to the sentiments of the French Physiologist, and caused his doctrines to be adopted by a great majority of the most learned Professors in the different quarters of the globe. At Edinburgh, however, with the exception of Dr Alison, the doctrine of venous absorption was not well received, and John Hunter's five experiments still continue to be the foundation of the belief, and the adoration almost of all the Scotch Physiologists.

By a communication from an Italian Physician, whose industry and talents have made him equally respected and distinguished, we have recently learnt that among the results of anatomical researches now making in Italy, *lymphatics have been discovered terminating in veins*. This was at first believed to be an anomaly—a mere *lusus naturæ*; but on examining a great number of bodies, the same structure was uniformly observed; and so the phenomena on which the theory of Magendie and Faudrin rests, are explained with great simplicity by that of their Italian rival. This highly important discovery will change the sentiments of the

great body of Physiologists, and carry us back to the exclusive doctrine of the great Mascagni.

MODE OF GIVING MEDICINE TO INFANTS.

It is best for persons of every age, and particularly for infants, that they swallow as little medicine as possible; but since it is sometimes indispensable, we have reflected on and practised all the different modes of administering it which are in common use, and find that none is so convenient as to give it in the form of powder; to place the powder, mixed with a little fine sugar, on the tongue, and then give the child the breast.

DISSECTION OF LORD BYRON.

"Lord Byron died in consequence of refusing to be bled, when he had an inflammation of the chest"!!!

Whether bleeding in particular diseases is beneficial, has long been, and probably ever will be, a subject of dispute among gentlemen of the Faculty. But whether bleeding is beneficial in all varieties of all diseases, though a much more extensive question, seems to have been lately proposed, and readily decided by many learned professors and other respectable physicians in different parts of the world. They seem to dwell with rapture on the history of times when practice like their own was successful, and condemn those as dark ages in which the lancet was considered an instrument of death; and whilst they disregard those authors who have declared its fatal effects, they love to tell us of the wisdom of Hippocrates, and of the divine honours paid to Podalirius, who was the first man that bled in disease: and of the rich reward he received from Democritus for the success of this bold and original operation. But so intimately have they mingled the past with the present, and so ingeniously and so long have they plead the practice of Hippocrates among the ancients, of Broussais in Europe, and of Rush among ourselves, to justify their own rashness, that they have mistaken variable opinions for rules that are ever to last, and from which we are never to deviate. Let such remember that Hippocrates regarded the season and constitution of the year, the age of the patient, and the habit of his body; for this most valuable of the aphorisms on which his memory rests, seems now almost to be forgotten. Were this regarded as it ought to be, and the influence of prejudice and great names laid aside, the lancet would undoubtedly be laid aside with them, to be resumed at some future period, when diseases present a different character, and require different laws to govern them.

Among all the individuals who have been borne away by the tide, or rather blown away by the wind of popular error, few have been carried to such an extent, or allowed their prejudice to make them so ridiculous, as those who were concerned in the dissection of the honored remains of the greatest of modern poets, the most enterprising and enthusiastic of modern philanthropists.

When Lord Byron was living, he told a tale to his medical attendants which was a little mortifying to their pride, and was far from flattering their strongest prejudices. About a year previous to his death, he was attacked by a fever which created alarm for his life, and he was assured that *bleeding* was the only thing which could prevent the fatal catastrophe. In spite however of their entreaties, he peremptorily and decidedly refused to submit to a process which his own sense told him would but aggravate his malady, and remarked at the same time that he believed more lives

had been destroyed by the *lancet* than the *lance*. By persisting in this his wise resolution, his system was enabled to master the disease, and he rapidly recovered his wonted health. At the time of his last sickness, the same proposal was made to him, and it was met by the same resistance: the strength of his system having been exhausted by the noble but arduous struggle in which he had been so actively engaged, he was but ill prepared to meet again the same evil he had previously surmounted, and he fell—more a martyr to *liberty* than to *disease*. The following relation of the post mortem examination of his body is extremely interesting as it is from the pen of the professional gentlemen to whom that duty was entrusted; but what can be more ridiculous than the grave assertion with which the account closes! It is as safe as it is common and easy, to say that "if the directions I gave had been followed, the patient would have recovered";—but it is a poor plea to hold out to the faculty; it may answer well to heal the wounds which a resistance to the use of the lancet had made in the personal pride and prejudice of the physicians, but it will not be received by the members of an enlightened profession as having any *other* power, unless it be to cast into ridicule the individuals whose wounds it had so easily healed.

The following is the account of the dissection as given by the attending Physicians.

1. The bones of the head were found to be excessively hard, and the skull was without the slightest sign of suture, like that of an octogenarian. It might have been said to consist of a single bone without diploes.

2. The dura meninge was so firmly attached to the internal surface of the cranium, that it required the repeated exertions of two strong men to separate the outer bones from it. The vessels of this membrane were greatly distended and completely full, and it was united to the pia mater in different parts, by some membranous filaments.

3. Between the pia meninge and the furrows of the brain, a great many bubbles of air were found, with drops of lymph adhering in several places to the pia meninge.

4. The grand falx of the brain was crossed with membranous filaments, which attached it firmly to both hemispheres; it was likewise extremely full of blood.

5. The cerebral medulla was full of minute blood-vessels of a bright red colour, and very much swollen. Under the pons variolus at the base of the hemisphere, in the two superior or lateral ventricles, there was found an extravasation of about two ounces of bloody serum; and at the cerebellum there was a similar expansion, the effects of a severe inflammation of the brain.

6. The medullary substance was in much greater proportion than is common in the cortex, and was very firm and consistent. The cerebrum and cerebellum, without any of the integuments, weighed about six medical pounds.

7. The impressions or furrows of the blood-vessels, in the internal part of the skull bones, though small, were much more numerous than usual.

8. The lungs were very fine, perfectly sound, but large, to a size almost gigantic.

9. Between the pericardium and the heart there was an ounce of lymphatic water. The heart was more ample and voluminous than ordinary, but its muscular substance was very relaxed and fibreless.

10. The liver was smaller than the natural size, as were likewise the biliary vessels, which, instead of bile, contained air. The intestines were distended with air, and of a deep yellow colour.

11. The veins were very large and healthy.

From this examination it was unanimously concluded by the medical gentlemen who attended it, that *if Lord Byron, from the commencement of his illness, had consented to a little loss of blood, as his private physician repeatedly advised, or even if at a more advanced stage of the disorder he had yielded to the pressing solicitations of his medical advisers, to allow a copious bleeding, his Lordship would not have fallen a victim to this attack.*—From the statements marked 1, 8, 9, it may be confidently asserted that his Lordship could not have lived many years, from his extreme susceptibility of disease, either through the strength of his passions, his excessive occupations, or even through his utter disregard of all the necessary means to prevent the effects of constipation.

REPORT.

SINGULAR EFFECT OF MERCURIAL PTYALISM.

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer, By THEOPHILUS C. DUNN, M. D. of Newport, R. I.

I was requested, some time last summer, to visit a patient who for several months had been unable to open her mouth, and was anxious, if possible, to be relieved by some surgical operation—to use her own expression, "to have her mouth cut open." While under medical treatment during the preceding winter, she had undergone a mercurial course, which either from some imprudent exposure or peculiar idiosyncrasy, produced an excessive ptyalism, since which she has been entirely unable to separate her jaws. The teeth were kept so accurately in contact, that it was impossible to introduce between them the smallest particle of solid aliment, and the patient for some months had subsisted solely upon fluids, which were sucked with difficulty through their interstices. The integuments and muscles of the lower jaw and throat, were rigid and firm to the touch, and the cellular membrane so condensed or changed in its structure, that the skin could only with difficulty be pinched up or moved upon the subjacent muscles. As the patient however possessed the power of throwing the muscles which depress the lower jaw into action, though neither their exertions, or the application of any extrinsic force could produce any perceptible effect, it occurred to me that the lining membrane of the mouth might be so thickened and contracted by inflammation, as to cause this perfect immobility. On examination this proved to be the case; the finger could be passed on the right side, without difficulty, between the teeth and the cheek which was flexible and yielding,—but on the left side, just within the angle of the mouth, the introduction of the finger was completely prevented by a firm, perpendicular cord, which appeared to be a duplicature of the lining membrane of the mouth, adhering immediately and firmly to the gums of the upper and lower jaws. A probe could however be insinuated between the teeth and this band, which extended one quarter of an inch backwards; beyond this, the point of the probe passed freely some distance, and then met

with another obstruction. Under these circumstances, I resolved to divide these *ligaments*, in hopes that in time the use of the lower jaw would be in a great measure restored.

Accordingly with a bistoury I divided the first band, and was now enabled to reach the second with my finger, which with a third, extending as far back as the last molar tooth, was examined and carefully divided. Considerable force was required to cut these cords, the lining membrane of the mouth being at these points converted into a substance almost ligamentous or semi-cartilaginous in its structure. After the division of the first band, the lower jaw was somewhat relaxed, and when all were divided, the patient could protrude her tongue and articulate distinctly, which had been impracticable for five months. A cork was placed between the teeth, and pledgets of lint introduced between the jaws and the cheek, to prevent a reunion of the divided surfaces. In the course of a few days the wounds were healed, and the lower jaw is gradually recovering its action, so that by this simple operation the patient is enabled to masticate without difficulty, and her speech, which was before scarcely intelligible to her friends, is now perfectly articulate.

INTELLIGENCE.

EXHALATION OF WATER IN RESPIRATION.—Dr Paoli and Prof. Regnioli, have had an opportunity of ascertaining the disputed point, whether the water exhaled in the act of respiration came from the lungs, or was owing to the exhalation formed in the aerial and nasal passages, as has been asserted by M. Magendie. Theresa A—had undergone the operation of tracheotomy, and it was observed that the air passing through the wound in the trachea, through a canula, became visible by the condensation of the aqueous vapour, at 4 deg. of Reaumur. A glass was applied 4 inches distant from this canula, and was covered with moisture.

M. Paoli enters into long discussions on this subject, and comes to the following conclusions: 1. That the aqueous vapour which accompanies the act of breathing, is formed from the whole surface of the respiratory organs. 2. That it takes place from simple exhalation, from the mucous membrane investing these organs. 3. That all the oxygen gas consumed in respiration is employed in the production of carbonic acid. 4. That the formation of this acid begins in the lungs, goes on in the arteries and the circulation, is brought to the lungs with the venous blood; and that by this means the animal heat produced by the combination of oxygen with the carbon of the blood, is extended to the whole animal economy.

NON-MERCURIAL TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS.—In 1815, Mr Thomas Rose of Oxford, Eng. commenced the treatment of syphilis without mercury. His lotion was composed of Extract of Hemlock and Opium, each five grains, to an ounce of water. Since then the disease has been found to yield much more frequently to other remedies than was before believed. We have in our possession notes of 1940 cases of syphilis which were cured without mercury, and 2827 cases in which that article was used. The former cures have been as permanent as the latter, and were effected in less time.

SURGICAL OPERATION.—A wen weighing seven lbs. was lately cut from the right breast of D. F. Delesdrenier, Esq. a gentleman 73 years of age, residing in Lu-

bec, Me. It had been growing upwards of 20 years. The operation was performed in 5 minutes by Dr Ayer.

LOBELIA IN ASTHMA.—Dr John W. Barkwell, of Twiggs county, Georgia, has recently made successful use of the Lobelia Emetica in a case of spasmodic asthma. The preparation used by Dr B. was a saturated solution, from which he has found the same speedy and desirable result as was experienced by Dr Cutler from the Lobelia Inflata. For these facts we are indebted to Dr Barkwell himself, and think them worthy the further notice of the faculty.

COUP DE SOLEIL.—Among other novelties of the season, we hear of coloured men having been killed by what is called in common parlance, stroke of the sun, in the vicinity of Natchez, when, as the papers state, the thermometer was *only* at 94. It has been thought that black people would bear much greater heat on the bare head without injury; but the fact is, that this sudden and often fatal phrenetic disease does not result merely from the *direct* influence of the sun, or apparent heat: much depends on physical predisposition, and much on the combination of imperceptible causes.

WHITE VEILS INJURIOUS.—White veils now so much worn have a tendency to increase sun-burns and freckles, by their increasing the intensity of the sun's light. They are also very injurious to the eyes, and will in a short time spoil the freshness and dim the lustre of the most brilliant eyes. Green is the only color which should be worn as a summer veil.

TEA-PLANTS.—Mr George Wallace, who lives at Braddock Fields, writes to the American Farmer, that he has raised, during the present season, a considerable quantity of the Hyson Tea-Plants.—We have frequently drank tea made from a plant which goes by that name, and grows wild on the upper borders of the Kennebec river. It resembles in flavor the best *souchong*, and we wonder it is not more generally known and used.

MINER AND TULLY ON FEVERS.—In the New-York Monthly Chronicle of Medicine and Surgery, published in New-York, and a notice of which may be seen in our 12th No. we are happy to find the following just and independent critique:—"There are few medical books which have met with so much unmerited abuse and ill-natured animadversion, as Miner and Tully's Essays. Their merit is however above detraction, and time will verify much of their authors' ample experience and practice."

MONTREAL MEDICAL INSTITUTION.—The Lectures to be given at the house of the Institution, No. 20, St. James Street, will commence on the 8th of Nov. next.

MONUMENT TO DR BAILLIE.—No individual of the medical profession has ever received such posthumous honours from his brethren as the late celebrated Dr Baillie, who for many years stood decidedly at the head of the faculty in the metropolis of the British empire, and was regarded by all classes as a kind of medical oracle. The Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of London have each of them voted a bust, to be executed by Chantry, and placed in their halls; and the Medico-Chirurgical Society proposes to have a portrait of him for their library. The members of the medical profession throughout London have likewise resolved to set on foot a subscription, with a view of erecting a monument to his memory, in St Paul's or Westminster Abbey. The most distinguished individuals in the profession are warmly engaged in promoting this object.

APPROPRIATE ORNAMENT.—On the top of the College of Physicians, in London, is a *golden ball*, the following allusion to which may be found in Garth's Dispensary:—

Not far from that most celebrated place,*
Where angry justice shows her awful face,
Where little villains must submit to fate,
That great ones may enjoy the world in state;
There stands a dome, majestic to the sight,
And sumptuous arches bear its oval height;
A golden globe, plac'd high with awful skill,
Seems, to the distant sight, a gilded pill.

* The Old Bailey.

MORTALITY OF THE CITY OF LONDON.—During the past year, 20,587 deaths occurred in London and its adjacent parishes. During the same period, there were 27,678 births. Of the deaths, 5,012 arose from consumption—2,189 from inflammation—24 from suicide—6 from intemperance—22 were executed—774 from small-pox—332 from apoplexy—118 drowned—39 burned. More than 100 exceeded the age of 90.

BEWARE OF BOASTING.—An Apothecary being with a large company of his neighbours, boasted, that a new patient, who had been many months confined to his bed under the care of another Apothecary, was *out* in twenty four hours after he began to attend him.—"Yes," replied a person present, "I know that to be a fact—I met him yesterday going to be buried."

MEDICINE AND SURGERY INSEPARABLE.—When Daguessan was High-Chancellor of France, a severe law-suit was carried on between the Physicians and the Surgeons. M. Peyronie pleaded ably, and requested the Chancellor to order a high wall to be built between the hospitals of the two contending parties.—"But if we do build the wall," said the Chancellor, "on which side of it shall we place the sick?"

TO READERS.—As the important discovery, an account of which we give this day, under the head of *Absorption*, has not yet been promulgated through the medium of other journals, we beg leave to call the attention of our readers to it; and shall be happy to learn the result of any examinations they may be induced to make, with a view to observe this hitherto unknown organization.

AGENTS FOR THE MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.—We have made arrangements with the following gentlemen to receive subscriptions for our paper, and payment in our behalf:—Dr J. W. Barkwell, Shine's Store, Twiggs Co. Georgia.—Dr Elisha D. Payne, Freedom, Baltimore Co. Md.—Enos Hoit, Esq. P. M. Northfield, N. H.—Dr Frederick B. Page, Portland, Me.—Dr Jeremiah Williams, Warren, R. I.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending September 25; from the Health-Office Returns.

Sept. 17.—Mary Ann Murphy, 12 mo.; John Welsh, 2. 18th.—John Bean, 13 months; Capt. Joseph Stone, 37. 20th.—Margaret Eaton, 75; James Hill; Mary E. Callihan, 12 months; Nathaniel B. Reed, 17; Albert A. Chapin, 9 mo. 21st.—Sarah Bryant; William Litchfield; Calvin Lane, jun. 9 mo.; Valentine O. S. Brown, 2. 22d.—William Blachard; ——— Larson; Edward Kavanagh, 25; Charles S. Stacy, 3; James Presse, 2 mo.; Joseph Wyatt, 13 mo.; ——— Dutton, 8 days; Lucy Ann Mariner, 2; William L. Tufts, 7 mo.; George P. S. Marshall, 6 mo. 23d.—Catharine Allen, 24; Hannah Wilder, 22; Maria L. Spear, 9 mo.; Mary Beal, 4 mo.; Samuel Stoneham, 15 mo. 24th.—John Pray, 46; Maria Miller Hansen, 13 mo. 25th.—Barnabas Bailey, 43; Susan McClenen, 17; Mary Davis, 45; Samuel Norton, 42.

Dysentery, 7—*Infantile*, 1—*Typhus Fever*, 2—*Teething*, 1—*Cholera Infantum*, 3—*Stillborn*, 1—*Jaundice*, 1—*Consumption*, 4—*Mortification*, 1—*Canker*, 2—*Bilious Fever*, 1—*Bleeding at the lungs*, 1—*Dropsy in the Head*, 1—*Drowned*, 1—*Bilious Colic*, 1—*Fever and Ague*, 1.

To Teachers of Anatomy and Surgery.

THE Subscriber is engaged in making a Magnified Brain, from four to five feet round, in plaster and wax, minutely accurate, and naturally coloured, exhibiting the origin of the *cerebral nerves*. It revolves upon an axis, admirably calculated for demonstration to a large class, at a distance from the demonstrator.—Gentlemen desirous of securing one of these, are requested to forward their orders immediately. Price 40 dollars, without the arteries, and with them, 50 dollars.

School-street, Boston.

H. WILLIAMS.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER:

Published weekly, at two dollars a year. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN CORRON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

OBSERVATIONS.

ON EMPIRICISM.

The next cause to which I would advert, as derogatory to the medical character, is the allowed progress of empiricism. As long as our art remains in its present state of imperfection, and disease continues so often to baffle the best directed efforts, the hope of the afflicted, and the credulity of the weak, will give some currency to the nostrums of ignorance and fraud.—But when in any way, either indirect or positive, we appear to countenance them, feeble hope is kindled into expectation, imagination dethrones reason, and in the fleeting moment of delusion, testimony is afforded, which the fatal catastrophe soon falsifies. The road to fortune is now open; the newspapers teem with accounts of wonders never wrought, a high value is set on the *magnum bonum*, and the croaking inventor and patentee swells into importance. I am well aware, that while some are ready to commit the fate of those on whom all their resources have been exhausted, to the chances of *experimental blundering*, many of our most respectable brethren think it necessary, in order to avoid the imputation of selfishness or illiberality, sometimes to encourage the use of unpromising remedies. But this requires some limitation. If any popular remedy is proposed, with the properties of which you are acquainted, and you think it consistent with the present safety of your patient, employ it; watch its effect, and if you find it salutary, candidly acknowledge your conviction, and persevere in its use. Even the strict attention to regimen a patient often observes, while employing some inert article, to which his own fancy or the officiousness of his neighbours led him, frequently accomplishes more than all the prescriptions of the physician. But you are bound to forbear sanctioning all unknown remedies, whether they owe their adoption to *direct inspiration*, *lucky dreams*, *the kindness of a stranger*, *the good nature of an Indian*, or THE NECESSITIES OF THE PROPRIETOR, whose strong ground of confidence is his want of acquaintance with medicine, and an entire ignorance of the delicate fabric he handles.

When these are proposed, it becomes your duty to state the probability of imposition, and the hazard of employing compounds prepared by unskilful hands. If, notwithstanding this, your patient persist in his desire, acquiesce. Still, however, though he wander from you and venture on dangerous ground, do not desert him.—If you perceive any injurious effect referrible to the drug, interpose your authority, regardless of the vender's prediction of its being the harbinger of good. Even when the confidence of your patient is shaken, and he is ready to dispense with your professional advice, continue friendly visits, for after all his aberrations, he will look to you for the tender consolations of humanity, when the spell is broken and he sees the storm gathering thick around him.

Of the many cases which fall into the hands of the advertising quack, the recovery of some is

to be expected, and whether there be a connexion between the cure and contrivance or not, he will profit by every lucky incident, and, though you may be satisfied he cannot justly boast success, your mere unqualified admission of the fact will be made to serve his purpose, and his puff will very soon be ornamented with the imposing appendage—"Recommended by several Physicians of this place, and elsewhere." Thus many are made to assist his fraud, who never believed in his miraculous powers.

In order therefore to limit, as much as possible, his depredations, avoid all direct intercourse with him. If you are invited to consult with him, refuse. This the safety of the patient requires, for your chance of success would be greatly diminished by his blind interference. Many, by consenting to meet creatures of this order in the hope of instructing them, put implements into their hands which are afterwards mischievously applied, by their erring judgments.

Does any one assert that as the people will have their antidotes and charms, their specifics and panaceas, 'tis useless to oppose them? Let him recur to the origin of these absurdities he now derides. By our profession they were conceived, and by us were they propagated, and however ridiculous many popular notions may now appear, they owe their existence, in the infancy of our science, to the profound cogitations of some learned doctors. Then think it not preposterous to attempt the substitution of more correct views, in place of errors of our own planting. Every enlightened physician must see its propriety, and if we once unite in the effort, the fascinations of antiquity will soon vanish before the clear light of reason, modern *wonders in the healing art* will be found of every day occurrence, and the chance cures of *inspired ignorance* be fairly estimated.

ERYSIPELAS.

A sketch of the Symptoms and Treatment of the disease called Antonii Sancti Ignis, or Erysipelas; which made its appearance at Columbiaville, a few weeks past. By ROBERT HICKS, M. D.

St Anthony was supposed, like many of our modern saints, to take great pleasure in adding to the miseries of mankind; but in these days, we readily exculpate the said saint from having any hand in the infliction of this disease. This eruptive fever, as it appeared in Columbiaville, was ushered in with cold shivering, and other symptoms of pyrexia. The hot stage was attended with great anxiety and oppression about the præcordia, confusion of thought, vertigo, and some degree of delirium, drowsiness or coma; the pulse was generally small, frequent and contracted—sometimes, however, full and strong; there was also nausea and sometimes vomiting. On the third day from the commencement of the fever, red spots appeared on some parts of the face. At first the redness was of no great extent, but spread gradually, till it covered not only the whole face, but the hairy scalp also, and then descended down the neck, and in one case the breast and back as low as the sacrum.

It often left the first attacked, and spread to the neighbouring parts, and all the parts where the redness appeared were somewhat tumefied, and the tumefaction remained after the redness had abated. It was generally attended with a sense of burning and pungent pain, without tension or pulsation. The face and head swelled to such a degree that the eyes were closed, and in one case, the tumor of the eyelids terminated in suppuration. After the redness continued for an uncertain time, vesicles frequently arose on the skin, containing a thin yellowish fluid, which soon oozed out, and dried upon the surface. In the blistered places, the skin appeared livid, but this was no deeper than the surface, and generally disappeared with the other symptoms. In the interstices between the blisters, the cuticle, towards the end of the disease, often suffered a considerable desquamation; the eruption did not produce any remission in the febrile symptoms, which on the contrary, commonly increased with the inflammation, and went on until taken off by proper remedies.

During my youthful studies, the *flour bag* was the only application then in use for Erysipelas, from an idea that it was dangerous to employ refrigerants. Medicines of this class are frequently termed repellents, and it would have been a fortunate circumstance for many patients, if their attending physicians had not been scared out of their wits at the thought of this terrible name *repellent*. The immortal Cullen, and our modern professors, when treating on this disease, seem to conceive that no other application, save meal or flour, is admissible, except when there is a sense of throbbing in the inflamed part, indicating suppuration; yet I must dissent from such opinion, though sanctioned by great writers and professors, in this instance: for if the refrigerent plan was resorted to in the early stages of the disease, suppuration would rarely, if ever happen. Cullen does not speak in positive terms with respect to the nature of this disease, whether it be local or constitutional; yet he says, he never knew a translation of the inflammation from the limbs to the other parts; and when it happens that the affection of the face is communicated to the brain, he supposes it to be entirely caused by the spreading of the inflammation. Does not this at once point out the necessity and propriety of having recourse to refrigerants, without leaving the work entirely to nature, and trusting to flour as the only local application? I have been in the habit of adopting to a considerable extent, for the last twenty five years, the practice of applying cold lotions in this disease, and to those more particularly which appear about the head and face, where we ought, as soon as possible, to check the complaint, particularly in females, in consequence of its so frequently disfiguring them. From what I have seen of the disease within the time before mentioned, and which has not been merely a few solitary cases now and then, I do not recollect one case where the application of cold lotions was early and properly applied, but it prevented suppuration and all its ill consequences, not

only in the head and face, but extremities: in the former I have used it very freely and repeatedly, when the inflammation has run extremely high, both locally and constitutionally, and I never once found by repelling it that either phrenitis, peripneumony, angina, or any unpleasant complaint followed. Indeed, to me the propriety of their application appears very obvious, upon the simple principle of checking that inflammation, which if allowed to go on, would probably extend to the brain, or some other important part, and in this way prove fatal. I have generally found that *if phlebotomy is performed in the early stage of the disease, although the inflammatory symptoms run pretty high, the patients seldom do as well as if it had been omitted*; for after it I have almost constantly found the pulse has gradually sunk, and the part put on a degree of sluggishness, and livid hue, with symptoms of typhus. It has been a common observation with some practitioners, that the blood which they have let in this disease, has been exceedingly bad, and that it is much better such blood should be out of the body than in it; but this argument is not worth a refutation,—Doctor Sangrado's method was much more plausible, in taking away the whole mass and refilling the vessels with the bland warm element.

The lotions which have been used so extensively in the practice I have had an opportunity of attending to, have been Aqua Lithargyri Acetati Composita, or the Aqua Aluminis Composita (L. P.) at the same time administering cooling purgatives, mild diaphoretics, assisted by the plentiful use of mucilaginous acidulated diluents, &c.

Surely then, if a disease so very troublesome and indeed formidable as Erysipelas, can be checked, and suppuration prevented by this mode of treatment, and that without any risk to the person's general health, it is a very cogent reason for adopting it; and I hope, ere long, it will be universally employed. I am sure no physician, who is anxious for his patient's speedy recovery, would, after employing it once, under any similar circumstances, omit using it a second time, and indeed forever after; for, as I have before stated, it prevents, if early employed, any serious mischief from coming on. Whereas by sprinkling the part with flour, using warm fomentations, &c. we very often find the inflammation continues to remain, the part suppurates and sloughs, and instead of curing the patient in a few days, he is confined for weeks, or perhaps months.

I am well aware that many physicians will object to the treatment of this disease in the way I have mentioned, and will say, it is obvious that every thing which can occasion a retrocession of the morbid matter from the surface of the body, must prove injurious, and therefore they contend that every erysipelas should be encouraged, for that in proportion as the external inflammation advances, the fever subsides. This argument may do extremely well to serve the purpose of a theorist, when discussing the subject in a debating society; but if he will turn his attention only a little to the practical part of his profession, and observe minutely and impartially the effects of the plan proposed, I am sure he will soon be convinced of the false grounds upon which his arguments are established.

Columbiaville, (N. Y.) June 28, 1824.

ACCUMULATION OF WAX IN THE EAR.

To remedy this very frequent cause of deafness, introduce a small piece of cotton wool, on which a little oil of almonds has been dropped, into the ear, and let it remain there a day or two. Then syringe the ear with a little warm milk & water, or a solution of soap, or with a solution of common salt in water, in the proportion of two drachms of the former, to $\frac{1}{2}$ an ounce of the latter.

DISORDERS OF LITERARY MEN.—NO. XII.

4th. REGIMEN. The great rule in the choice of our diet is to select those articles of food which are agreeable to the taste, nutritious, and easily digested. Nature has given to man, in common with inferior animals, a sure guide to distinguish those things which are beneficial, from those which are injurious; his instinct leads him to seek the good and reject the bad. The appetite may be as safely trusted for a physical, as the conscience for a moral guide,—unless the one has been excited by unnatural stimulants, as the other is sometimes hardened by habitual wickedness. But since among those articles of food which are most agreeable, there may be some which, from debility or peculiarity of constitution, we are unable to digest, experience must come in aid of instinct, teach us to avoid what has once been found hurtful, and to select what will most effectually contribute to our nourishment and vigour.

This is the only direction we can give respecting the choice of the articles of diet. Physicians are too much in the habit of prescribing such a course of regimen as suits a whim or gratifies a fancy, without regarding the wonderful difference in the digestive powers of different individuals. This is partly owing to thoughtlessness, and partly to indolence;—to *thoughtlessness*, because a moment's reflection would teach them how often a viand which is easily digested and proves nutritious to one man, will be speedily rejected from the stomach of another, and produce pain and dyspepsia in a third; to *indolence*, because it suits better the natural disposition of most men to prescribe laws to nature, than to search out those she has imposed upon us. Nothing is more common than for one man to recommend to his neighbour a certain article of food, or course of diet, because it had been exceedingly serviceable to himself;—but this reasoning is as fallacious as it is common, and when we can invent a mask which will suit every human face with the same accuracy, we will subscribe to the peptic precepts which have been laid down in the books, and the vulgar reasoning we have censured above. Until then, we must believe that the instinct and experience of each individual must together select his appropriate diet, and all the physician can do is to state the precautions by which the articles that have been thus chosen may be made most readily and perfectly to effect their object.

1st. Mastication. In the first place, it is important that our food be perfectly masticated; and that those substances which do not require this process should be retained in the mouth long enough to excite the action of the salivary glands. The degree to which mastication should be carried, depends on the nature of the article, although the celebrated Dr Kitchener has laid down one unvariable rule for this as well as every other process connected with our diet. "To chew long and leisurely," says he "is the only way to extract the essence of our food, to enjoy the taste of it, and to render it easily convertible into laudable chyle, by the facility it gives to dissolve it without trouble. From

thirty to forty may be given as the mean number of munches that solid meat requires, to prepare it for its journey down the *red lane*. Mastication is the source of all good digestion. The sagacious gourmand is ever mindful of his motto,—

'Masticate, denticulate, chump, grind and swallow.'

The four first acts he knows he must perform properly, before he dare attempt the fifth." In the same ridiculous light we view all rules which are prescribed with an accuracy which would be warranted only by that similarity in the constitutions of men, which can never exist. It is, however, of the highest importance for all, particularly for those in whom sedentary habits have weakened the digestive apparatus, to remember that thorough mastication is absolutely necessary to prepare food for easy digestion, and that by mingling with the mass a quantity of saliva, it carries with it to the stomach that secretion which is designed by nature to promote the healthy action of that delicate organ.

2d. Quantity. A celebrated scholar, and one of the brightest ornaments of the bench, recently remarked to us that he had seldom seen a great student who was not a great eater; yet the quantity of food proper for sedentary men is less than that required by those whose habits are more active. Whenever the appetite has been indulged to excess, a dull pain is felt in the pit of the stomach, which is the effect of laborious digestion; and the consequences of repeated indulgence will be pains in the head, dizziness and other symptoms of dyspepsia. When the stomach is filled with food, an unusual quantity of vital energy is required by that organ; ubi stimulus ibi affluxus—if then the student resumes his studies whilst in this state, he draws to the brain a portion of that energy which the stomach cannot relinquish, and thus is a contention kept up between the two organs, by which each is deprived of its proper quantity of vital fluid, and the powers of both consequently debilitated; enervation of the intellectual faculties, and the horrors of dyspepsia, are both induced, and the health and the hopes of the student are blasted together.

3d. Variety. One half the diseases from which scholars suffer, are the result of eating—not so much articles which are indigestible, but, as we have remarked, too great a quantity of food; and this evil is generally induced by dining on a *variety* of dishes. The stomach can digest an ounce of beef and an ounce of mutton together, as easily as two ounces of either of them; but when the appetite is satiated by one article, another which has a different flavour will renew it, and thus does variety lead to that repletion which is the cause of so much pain and so much constitutional derangement in literary men. By uniformly shunning therefore a variety of food, they will be proper judges of the degree of their natural appetite—that physical guide which should ever be consulted.

4th. Wines. On this subject we will only remark that an inordinate use of wine and ardent spirits is a failing seldom observed in literary men, and one therefore on which we have little to say here. In hot weather, when the system is subjected to the relaxing influence of continued heat, a little brandy and water *with* dinner will be found salutary, though it is exceedingly injurious when taken *before* a meal to excite an unnatural appetite, or when taken at all in the winter season. Water, when it can be obtained in its purity, is the most agreeable, natural, and nutritious drink; it facilitates digestion, and prevents the formation of acid in the stomach. A glass or two of good old Sherry, Madeira or Port, is an agreeable and salutary stimulus to the digestive function when taken *after* dinner, but no-

thing is to be more studiously avoided than a habit of taking a greater quantity.

*Ut Venus enervat vires, sic copia vini,
Et lentat gressus, debilitatque pedes.*

5th. Temperature of food. But of this in our next.

THE PLEASURES OF SICKNESS.

We have seldom known a Clergyman visited with disease, but the first sermon after his recovery has been from the text—"It is good for me that I have been afflicted"; and we do not see why an Editor, under similar circumstances, may not be allowed to endite a few lines on the pleasures of sickness. It is however rather a difficult task, for so numerous are the enjoyments of this blessed state, that we must either fill the whole paper, or omit to mention a large proportion of them.—Presuming that the latter alternative will be more agreeable both to our readers and ourselves, we shall pass over those great and glaring delights which must have been noticed by every one, and just hint at a few of those, which, being less evident, might not at first suggest themselves to the mind.

1st. *Sickness enables us to distinguish our real friends from those whose friendship is merely pretended.*—So much are mankind influenced by self-interest, pride, and parade, that a man who holds up his head in the fashionable circles, finds hundreds who will bow their own in passing him, court his conversation, and appear equally amused and instructed at his remarks, however full or destitute they may be of wit or wisdom;—but let this man disappear from the ceremonious parade of the drawing-room, and his most assiduous flatterers will forget that he even exists;—let sickness take him from the splendid scenes of fashionable life, or the busy ones of business, and he is remembered only by those who feel an interest in his welfare; it is only his true friends who will seek him in the haunts of disease, and thus is he enabled to distinguish those whose friendship is sincere, from those in whom it is merely pretended; he derives an inexpressible pleasure from knowing that there are some who will follow him for his own sake,—he enjoys their attentions a thousand times more than any he had ever received in the gay world, and feels within him an exulting and noble emotion when he reflects that hereafter he shall be able to show his gratitude to some, and his contempt to others, who, but for his illness, would have ever been treated with the same politeness.

2d. *Sickness secures the constant presence and unceasing attention and sympathy of those we love best.*—And what can exceed the pleasure a sick man feels when he sees the beings he has loved from his infancy, watching over him with unceasing solicitude and kindness—and above all, that one who is dearer than life itself to his heart, evincing the truth and ardor of her affection by anticipating every wish, marking every sensation, and manifesting in every look and movement, her whole devotion to his comfort and welfare.

3d. *Sickness ensures a man the most delicate and delicious articles of diet which the market affords.*—However much delicacy and politeness may urge a man in health to offer to others those morsels which he esteems most delicious, he may yet meet with some cases in which the temptation is too great to be resisted; yet does that feeling which is so accurately described by the word *sheepishness*, deprive him of at least half the pleasure he would otherwise take in masticating his favourite palate-pleaser. Now the sick man feels none of this kind of selfishness in devouring the choicest arti-

cles of diet. The most tender birds, the oldest and best wines, are sent expressly for his use, by all his neighbours; his meals are served up in the most careful manner, and presented him by some one who is pleased just in proportion to the degree in which he enjoys his repast. If a man has any thing like a palate, what can be more luxurious than all this,—what epicure would not court sickness from the bottom of his heart, were he to reflect on all these privileges. The sick man has all the pleasures of an epicure, without the evil consequences which too often wind up the career of those gentry. His diet is *simple* at the same time that it is *delicious*. Your real bon-vivant—the man who, in common parlance, is called a *good liver*, finds himself, in a very few years, with a very *bad liver*; whereas the pleasures which result from the indulgencies of the invalid, are not marred by the thought that they will shorten his days, or vitiate his system.

Besides these pleasures of sense, the idea of a returning appetite kindles the cheering light of hope in the heart, and excites the imagination to those celestial reveries, which the invalid is enjoying with so much ecstasy, whilst his robust neighbour is rolling in senseless sleep, or suffering the horrors of the nightmare after a hot supper or a stupefying nap-glass.

4th. *The dog-days must be spent at Nahant, or the patient must go out and travel a year or two in Europe for the recovery of his health.*—Suppose then the opportunity of ascertaining his true from his pretended friends, the affectionate attentions of those who are nearest and dearest, and the delightful gratification of a returning appetite with all its pleasing associations, are not enough to satisfy a man's *penchant* after happiness,—who can ask more when we add the privilege of flying from the busy throng of a heated and crowded metropolis, and from the cares and anxieties and the drudgery of business, to inhale the refreshing sea-breezes of Nahant, to gaze on its rich and romantic scenery, to admire its sublimity in a storm, and feel its exhilarating influence, when those who are in full health are melting and gasping under the exhausting and almost suffocating closeness of a calm hot day in August! Or, if instead of Nahant, those who feel most interested in his welfare, present him with a letter of credit to an unlimited amount, and bid him travel among the beautiful gardens of England, or the curious and interesting cities of France and Italy, what reason has he to complain?—how ungrateful—how unreasonable would it be in him not to rejoice in his happy lot.

Thus would we gladly go on to the 40th pleasure save one, but the few we have mentioned will induce more to be sick we fear, than, among editorial avocations, we can well find time to attend to; so, out of pure good will to ourselves, we will proceed no further. We cannot close, however, without observing that the second of the pleasures we have enumerated is scarcely applicable to that useless thing called an *old bachelor*: in fact it is true of all these delights, that the difference in their sum total to that pitiable class of beings, and to those happy souls who are blest with the smiles of an affectionate wife, is very much in favor of the latter; so that it is our sincere belief that your real good sort of family man is not acquainted with half the enjoyments of domestic life, till he has been once or twice confined by sickness.

We hope our readers will accept our apology for not detailing the remaining thirty-five articles, although the general impressions on the subject of these remarks are so exceedingly erroneous;—we know of but one

man who ever expressed himself like a philosopher on this subject, and that was a distinguished Physician, who during his attendance on a man of letters, observing that the patient was very punctual in taking his medicines and following his rules, exclaimed in the pride of his heart—"Ah, my dear Sir, now you *deserve to be sick*."

REPORT.

CASE OF DUMBNESS.

By MR THOMPSON.

Betsey Page, now in her twentieth year, was, when in her eighteenth month, seized with convulsions, which, for three weeks occasionally attacked her, and then left her altogether. It was observed, shortly after their disappearance, that she had lost her speech, and likewise hearing; but her vivacity remained the same, and the health not in the slightest affected. Prior to this seizure, she is said to have been remarkably quick in catching any little word, and repeating it with great distinctness; but all the art that was resorted to could not afterwards make her articulate the least intelligible sound. In this state she continued till her sixteenth year, when it was observed that the tones, as her mother said, became more human, and she began to utter sounds like words. After this she added, though slowly, to her little stock, two or three words every week; they were monosyllables only. Words of any length could not, at this time, be taught her; and she continued to make very little progress till the beginning of June last, since which time she has greatly improved.

She gave her mother to understand, the first time she had ever been able to hear any thing was after a rejoicing on a public occasion. At the time, the sound made by the cannon gave some pain on one side only; this was on the left: on the right she could hear nothing, and felt no sensation similar to the other. This ear still remains deaf; she has since inquired if all persons hear but in one ear.

She has always displayed great quickness.—When at school she surpassed most of the scholars in needle and fancy work; and the mistress with whom she was taught informed me, no trouble was experienced in teaching her. With this lady she continued a length of time. Her drawings shew much taste and execution for the time spent in learning. She has been from school three or four years. During the last six months she has been attending to reading at home, and can with trifling assistance distinctly pronounce, and in part understand, words of one and two syllables. The progress made has been proportionate to the exertions used and the instruction given, neither of which have been great. A few lessons also in arithmetic were at one time given, but being unused to abstract reasoning, and unable to draw conclusions, more difficulty was experienced in this branch of knowledge than in any other yet attempted, and I suspect it has been given up in disgust. But of numbers she has some idea; although their complex combinations appear to be beyond her reach, she enumerates to a considerable extent on being asked. It is not a little strange, that although she has been in the habit of repeating her prayers morning and evening to her mother for a length of time, she is still unable to say

them from memory. I found, on questioning her, that she could not connect five words of the Lord's prayer without they were distinctly given, and of their meaning she could comprehend but little. The words used in endeavours made in the way of explanation, always confuse her, however simple, especially from a stranger, the sound of the voice being different from that to which she is accustomed: this may account for the difficulty found in making her understand.—What has been gained, too, with respect to language, has been gained at home—rather an unfit place for rapid improvement. The greater ease found in communicating by signs, make those about her resort to them; and, therefore, she is likely to be a long time before she will be able to converse fluently; but the progress made during the last nine months gives an "earnest of success," which ought not to be lost sight of; and, in consequence, I strongly recommend a removal amongst strangers. The voice, also, which is now harsh and grating, would, of necessity, be improved, from the more constant use to which it would be put.

Her memory is defective in those things received by impressions through the medium of the ear, but not so in those received through the other senses, as the sight, &c.; any thing once observed is remembered forever. Although she can copy a letter with the greatest exactness, and some neatness, her defective recollection prevents her putting together three words in a connected form. The brain, like any other part of the body, becomes weak from want of use, and may be by length of time totally deprived of power.

INTELLIGENCE.

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.—On the 2d of August the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on 109 students in medicine, by this University.—The honours at this Institution seem to have been in many cases hereditary:—there have been among the Professors two Duncans, (father and son,) two Hopes, two Hamiltons, three Munros, two Stewarts, and two Rutherfords.

SURGICAL OPERATIONS.—A short time since, an extraordinary operation was performed at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, upon a man whose sound thigh was cut open, and an old decayed bone extracted.—This man is now so much recovered as to be walking about the streets of Canterbury.—A patient was received at the above hospital some time since, with a very bad case of diseased liver. After some time the case assumed the worst possible appearance, and it was resolved, as the only chance of preserving life, to *tap the liver*. The operation was performed by Mr Fitch, senior surgeon, in presence of other gentlemen of the faculty connected with the establishment. Upon the liver being touched, upwards of five pints of diseased matter immediately flowed from the wound. A tube, 9 inches in length, was then introduced and retained in the wound, through which a pint of the same fluid was daily evacuated for a week. The man is recovering.

AGED GRADUATES.—It is stated in the Connecticut Journal, that the late Dr Whitney, of Brooklyn, was the second oldest graduate of Yale College; that the oldest now living is Dr Elihu Tindor, of East Windsor, of the class of 1750. The second is Dr Eneas Monson, of New-Haven, of the class of 1753; and the third, Dr Joshua Porter, of Salisbury, of the class of 1754.—The oldest graduate of Cambridge, now living, is the venerable Dr. Holyoke, of Salem, who was graduated in 1746, and is now in the 97th year of his age. The third oldest is Dr Nathaniel Lathrop, of Plymouth, who graduated in 1756, and on whom an honorary degree was conferred at the last Commencement.

EPIDEMICS.—It is said to be a fact, that neither the small-pox, measles, hooping-cough or scarlet fever, have ever been known either in New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, or the Sandwich Islands.

ELECTRICITY.—An electrical shock may be received from a cat, by placing the left hand under the animal's throat, slightly pressing the bones of the shoulder, and then gently passing the right hand down the back.

ARTIFICIAL ASBESTOS.—Linen, muslin, paper, wood, straw, &c. may be rendered uninflamable by being dipped in a solution of phosphate of ammonia or acidulous phosphate of lime. Clothes, valuable documents, pannels, roofs, awnings, &c. exposed to fire, may thus be rendered less liable to destruction.

URINARY CALCULUS.—M. Laugier lately examined a calculus taken from a young man 22 years of age.—Although formed of substances frequently met with in similar concretions, its examination presented some peculiarities. It was of a brownish colour, soft and friable, and could be taken away only in pieces. By exposure to the air it became dry, and its colour was rendered browner. The calculus was examined with potash, acids and water, with the following results:—The soluble portion was composed of lithic acid, one part—lithate of ammonia, four parts—phosphate ammonia, one half, apart. The insoluble, of oxalate lime, one & a half—animal matter, two—loss and moisture, one.

INODOROUS HYDROGEN GAS.—Berzelius has observed that perfectly inodorous hydrogen gas may be obtained by putting an amalgum of potass and mercury into pure distilled water; but if an acid or muriate of ammonia be added to the water, which accelerates the development of the gas, it gives the same odour as that remarked in the solution of zinc by weak sulphuric acid. This odour therefore does not belong to the gas, but is given to it by impurities.

CHEMICAL COMBINATION.—When a few drops of fuming nitric acid are put into a flask filled with sulphurated hydrogen, the hydrogen is oxydized by the nitric acid, and the sulphur disengaged in a solid form. If the flask be closed with the finger so that the gas which is heated cannot escape, its temperature is raised so much as to produce combustion with a beautiful flame, and a slight detonation, which forces the finger from the mouth of the flask. This experiment may be made without the least danger with a flask containing four or five cubical inches of gas.

CORKS.—The astringent matter in corks has been found in some cases to absorb the particles of iron, in chalybeate water. It is recommended therefore that the corks be first steeped in the water. It is this principle in the cork which has made it celebrated when used in the cure of Cholera Morbus.

ENGLISH OPIUM.—Opium is now made in considerable quantities in England, and is preferred by physicians and surgeons to the best that can be obtained from Turkey and the East Indies. The capsule is scarified, and collected as soon as it appears, and not left until it grows hard. It is collected in a phial with a little tunnel fixed in the mouth. It has long been cultivated in France, and might be easily raised here.

STETHOSCOPE IN FRACTURES.—Much pain may be spared those who have broken or are supposed to have broken any bone, by using the stethoscope. The slightest crepitation is rendered by it exceedingly distinct, and although it should be used in all cases of fracture, it will be particularly valuable in ascertaining the existence and extent of those of deep seated bones.

EXCESSIVE USE OF SULPHUR.—Professor Olmstead, in a late geological excursion in North Carolina, met with a patient who was enduring the most excruciating pains, with his body emaciated, his knee-joints grown out in excrescences, knees drawn together, and so helpless that he could not move a limb without aid. On inquiring into the cause of his disease, he learned that it was occasioned by taking enormous doses of sulphur, recommended to him by a quack to cure the rheumatism. He had thus taken 6 pounds of sulphur.

INDIAN STUDENT.—Professor Anderson, of the Vermont Medical Academy, has benevolently offered to educate an Indian youth, at his own expense, in the theory and practice of medicine. The offer has been communicated to the Secretary of the United Foreign Missionary Society.

YELLOW FEVER.—This disease continues to rage with increasing fatality in Charleston and New-Orleans. From 5 to 10 new cases are reported every day.

RECOMMENDATION OF LAP-DOGS.—A lady of respectable family in the county of Galway, (Ireland,) was so attached to her lap-dog as to indulge him in remaining in her room at night, as also in licking her lips. The dog was for some time observed to become dull, and to lose all desire for food, and he shortly disappeared from the house. In the course of five or six weeks, the disease of hydrophobia was announced by the lady's expressing sudden horror at the sound of water from a neighbouring mill-stream. Convulsive efforts of the organs of deglutition now set in, with intervals of delirium; frequent spasms of the entire muscular system succeeded, and on the third day she died after a violent paroxysm which left her in a state of extreme exhaustion.

BEWARE OF BOASTING.—An Apothecary being with a large company of his neighbours, boasted, that a new patient, who had been many months confined to his bed under the care of another Apothecary, was *out* in twenty four hours after he began to attend him.—"Yes," replied a person present, "I know that to be a fact—I met him yesterday going to be buried."

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending October 2d; from the Health-Office Returns.

Sept. 24th.—Lydia K. Wright, 29; Catharine Ware, 14. 25th.—Alicia Shubrick, 12 mo. 26th.—Abigail Hutchinson; Mary C. Howland, 9; John Thorndike; Theophilus Norris, jun. 14 mo.; Samuel Vose, 55; Catharine Adams, 18 mo.; Mary Baxter, 29. 27th.—Dexter; Adelia Lane; Walter Fitzharris, 24; S. Story, 18 mo. 28th.—Harriet H. Newhall, 10 mo.; Jane McBride, 18; Isaac Rhoads, jun. 17; David Pittee, 2 mo. 28th.—Maria Torry, 62. 30th.—Noel Detrehan, 65; Catharine Boylan, 6 weeks; Henry E. Sargent, 3 mo.; Charles Hunt, 2 weeks; John Vose, 30; Thankfull Stone, 12 mo. October 1st.—Mary Hills, 34; Lucy M. Ripley, 6 mo.; Gore. 2d.—Ellen Coffee, 24; William Simpson; Nathan Griggs, 39; Deborah Crooker, 17.

Dropsy, 1—Dysentery, 5—Lung Fever, 2—Typhus Fever, 3—Infantile, 3—Consumption, 5—Stillborn, 2—Cholera Infantum, 4—Complaint of the Heart, 1—Old age, 1—Cholera Morbus, 1—Canker, 1.

To Teachers of Anatomy and Surgery.

THE Subscriber is engaged in making a Magnified Brain, from four to five feet round, in plaster and wax, minutely accurate, and naturally coloured, exhibiting the origin of the cerebral nerves. It revolves upon an axis, admirably calculated for demonstration to a large class, at a distance from the demonstrator.—Gentlemen desirous of securing one of these, are requested to forward their orders immediately. Price 40 dollars, without the arteries, and with them, 50 dollars.

School-street, Boston.

H. WILLIAMS.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER :

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Dr Jeremiah Williams, Warren, R. I.
Dr Elisha D. Payne, Freedom, Baltimore Co. Md.
Dr John W. Barkwell, Shine's Store, Twiggs, Co. Geo.
Dr Robert Carr Lane, Mobile, Alabama.

We have forwarded proposals to gentlemen in most of the large towns in different parts of the union; when answers are received, their names will be inserted.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1824.

No. 22.

OBSERVATIONS.

ON ETIQUETTE.

In the third place, I would recommend a strict observance of etiquette towards brother practitioners. If we expect public regard, we must respect each other.

When you are called to consult with one of acknowledged skill, let no private feelings of animosity prevent your compliance, unless you find it so strong as to obscure your judgment; in which case indulge in no intemperate expressions, but state your objections in a calm dignified manner, avoiding any unnecessary detail calculated to prejudice the mind of the patient.

If you are already in attendance, betray no unwillingness to have his opinion, but rather manifest a desire to give place to him, for a time.—It may even be proper, sometimes, to furnish an account of the previous history and treatment of the case, either in writing, or through a third person. If his suggestions are good, adopt them. This proof of magnanimity, will secure for you the esteem of the virtuous and wise, command the respect of your enemy, and if it do not conciliate his regard, will satisfy you of his unworthiness; the bosom that can harbour ungenerous dislike, being destitute of genuine honesty, and totally incapable of real friendship.

When a professional meeting is appointed, be punctual in attendance. Examine the patient with as much attention, as you would if you alone were responsible. Observe strict secrecy in your after deliberations. If the person you are called to assist be your senior, do not take his opinions for granted, but, with becoming modesty, judge for yourself: if he be younger or less established in his profession, show him proper deference. Honour his office, if you cannot respect his years. Cold inattention to a junior, the assumed air of importance, the self-complacent smile of protection, catechetical mode of address, and dictatorial manner of advising, all indicate a weak mind, and are only practised by those whose pretensions to superiority are doubtful; the man who is positive of his own excellence not fearing to have it disputed by those who witness his condescension.

When the consulting physician approves of the plan of treatment instituted by the person first in attendance, he should never, from a mere love of change, propose a remedy no better calculated to fulfil the indication, than the one already adopted. This is particularly improper at the first visit.

If any difference of opinion occur on points merely theoretical, be ready to waive your peculiar views; for theories apparently diverging, often lead to the same practical conclusion. If, however, you do not agree on the all-important matter of *treatment*, endeavour to divest yourselves of prejudice, and compare with candour adverse opinions. Be neither dogmatical, nor show that hasty submission to the reasoning, and ready acquiescence in the views of your opponent, always characteristic of imbecility. If solid conviction be the result of your debate, be

not too proud to acknowledge it; if *not*, you cannot be expected to abandon ground you consider tenable. In this dilemma, you should refer the case to some one, in whose judgment you both confide, and let his decision be final.

The attending physician should write all prescriptions, communicate all directions, and (except where the other is called for the purpose) perform all operations.

Neither the patient nor his friends, are to be made acquainted with any discordance of opinion, that may have occurred in your private conference; a knowledge of this being only calculated to lessen confidence in both. All must appear to be the effect of mutual agreement; *I*, *he*, and *they*, must be obsolete words, and you must not say by whom any particular remedy was proposed.

Sometimes the urgency of the case, or the solicitude of friends, requires you suddenly to visit the patient of another. Here, if absolutely necessary, prescribe without delay, but let it be distinctly understood you consider your services vicarious, and expect to give place to the person of their more deliberate choice. After *his* arrival, continue only long enough to furnish any requisite information or assistance. If his politeness, or the gratitude of the patient, dictate an invitation for your return, do not impose on their courtesy, but repeat your visit only after a regular call. Decency makes the request proper, and modesty renders your hesitation equally necessary.

In your visits of friendship or civility, you will frequently be asked your opinion of a case under the care of another. If you think it consistent with truth, declare your entire satisfaction with his views, and encourage a strict compliance with his advice;—if not, betray not, either by word or *action*, any disapprobation. The doubting look, and portentous shrug, are even more unmanly than open censure.

If the petulance or impatience of the sick, betray them into unguarded expressions of distrust or dissatisfaction, honour forbids your taking any advantage of the circumstance. You are bound to endeavour to satisfy doubts and re-establish confidence, and if you cannot effect this laudable end, let not a repetition of the complaint pollute your breath. Though secrecy be not enjoined by the disaffected, the obligations of your profession impose it. Light not the torch of discord at the altar of suffering humanity.

If in any of your friendly calls, you find a brother practitioner in an error, remonstrate with him privately, and if you convince him, boast not, but be content with the satisfaction of well doing. If he persist, leave him to his own will, unless his mistake be so gross as to prove him unqualified for the important duty he has undertaken. In this latter case, interference is justifiable, and it might be proper to insist on a reference to a third person; always however concealing your suspicion from the patient or his friends.

If in any instance caprice or some slight misunderstanding induce a patient to dismiss his

physician, the successor may not be bound to inquire into the merits of the case, but should resent any unjust censure, or reprove any dishonourable insinuations. If it be in your power to reconcile differences, spare no exertion. Bearing in mind the sacred injunction, of *doing to others as we would they should do to us*, employ every honourable effort to procure his restoration, and cheerfully retire before him. If you cannot effect this, ascertain from him that he considers himself finally discharged, and assure him of your amicable disposition.

Sometimes the representations of patients are calculated to lead to a misconstruction of the conduct and motives of another practitioner. In such a case you should not betray any premature resentment. Have an interview, and endeavour to come to a right understanding with him; and if his explanation do not even accord with the previous statement, credit him, unless he is evidently inconsistent.

When any dispute occurs between two practitioners, which their mutual explanations cannot reconcile, the opinion of a common friend should be taken; and if this fail of producing the desired pacification, and a more general appeal is thought necessary, let it be strictly confined to the profession. A public exposure of real grievances seldom answers the purpose of the injured, while the rehearsal of fancied wrongs meets with ridicule. The world is too indifferent of individual concerns, to examine with care into the grounds of misunderstanding. Nor, indeed, is it always capable of a correct decision, none but men in the same profession, being qualified to appreciate the ground of difference. He that expects to fire the community with his indignation, however just, is in great danger of disappointment; for party feeling and prejudice will always weigh, and after all charging and rebutting, the previous standing of the parties will be made the leading question, and though both are degraded, injustice, if high handed or official, may prevail. Time will often effect, what haste may defeat. It is better therefore to wait its slow working, than incur the hazard of adding mortification to injury.

DISLOCATIONS.

In almost all cases of dislocation of joints, it will be better, if possible, to await the arrival of a surgeon: but there is one species of luxation, very alarming to the by-standers, and particularly painful and inconvenient to the sufferer, which will admit of immediate relief, if any person, gifted with presence of mind and resolution, will attempt its reduction: this is *dislocation of the lower jaw*. Without attempting to describe the anatomy of the parts concerned, further than to state that either one or both of the balls, or condyles, at the extremity of the lower jaw, have slipped out of their sockets in the upper one, and consequently cause the mouth to be opened to its utmost extent, we lay down the following simple plan to restore them to their proper situation.

Let the two thumbs of the operator be wrapped round by a handkerchief, and then introduc-

ed into the mouth of the patient, and pushed as far as possible between the jaws; while the fingers are, at the same time, applied to each angle of the outside. Now, attempt to move the bone from its situation, by bringing it, first, a little forwards, and then pressing it forcibly downwards; when it will slip into its place without farther trouble.—The patient should, for a time, avoid much speaking, or the chewing of hard substances, for fear of a recurrence of the accident.

The handkerchief is used to prevent injury to the operator's hands, which, otherwise, might be considerably hurt by the force with which the condyles return to their sockets.

DISORDERS OF LITERARY MEN.—NO. XIII.

5th. Temperature of food. In men of sedentary habits, the office of the skin is performed with little activity, and the effect of great heat introduced into the stomach is more permanent than in those in whom perspiration is free and abundant. Students are often troubled with a sensation of coldness, particularly in the extremities, which is the result of languid circulation, and which renders the application of artificial heat exceedingly grateful; therefore are they more liable than others to swallow their food too hot, as well as less able to resist the deleterious influence of this prevailing error. Artificial heat affects the health by destroying the muscular tone of the stomach, vitiating its secretions, and inducing painful and dangerous diseases of the liver. The native children of the forest, who are strangers to the artificial luxuries of refined life, subsist on aliment of a temperature no higher than that of their own bodies, and they are generally hardy and long lived until the simplicity of their habits is interrupted by the adoption of the vices which prevail among the civilized invaders of their soil; and if nature teaches this lesson to the rover, it surely ought not to be neglected by those for whom sedentary habits render it infinitely more requisite.

6th. Frequency. In men of learning the process of digestion is performed with so much languor, that it is necessary food should be taken but seldom, and slowly. Three meals a day, one liberal, and the other two slight, are abundantly sufficient; and every student should allow himself one hour at least for dinner. A glass of pure cold water should be taken early in the morning, and another of good wine, and an apple, perhaps, or some such light supper, would not be injurious at night; but between the three regular meals, six hours should elapse, that the stomach may digest perfectly its contents before it receives an accession of aliment. A full meal just before bedtime is generally innocent or injurious, as habit rather than the constitution happens to make it; and therefore many men live to great age who sup richly every night: yet does it promote a determination of blood to the head, and by increasing that tendency by which study injures us, it materially enhances its evil consequences, and incapacitates us for remaining long at our labor. Thus are the object and the health of men of letters sure to be defeated by such a practice, however innocent habit may render it to the vigorous and active, to those who think little, and never deeply, who exercise much, and never study.

7th. Conduct after Meals. Nothing in the history of a student is more common than for him to hurry through his dinner, and fly back at once to finish the book in which he had become interested, or to complete the figure or the argument from which he had been reluctantly summoned. To this subject we have

already alluded under the head of *Exercise*, and we cannot too strongly impress on the minds of our literary friends the extreme imprudence, and eventual results of this almost universal custom. Domestic or other avocations which are calculated to excite without fatiguing the attention, are the most proper and healthful employment for the hour succeeding dinner; light conversation on the passing events of the day, is an agreeable recreation for this period, or the student may then follow the advice of Marcus Antonius, who has said,—“When you would recreate yourself, reflect on the laudable qualities of your acquaintance.” This agreeable occupation exhilarates, at the same time that it gently exercises both the feelings and the mind.

On the whole, temperance and sobriety are the great principles to which nearly all the rules of Regimen may be referred. Addison observed that when he saw a fashionable table set out in all its magnificence, he fancied that he saw gout and dropsies, fevers and lethargies, with other innumerable distempers, lying in ambush among the dishes; and we may add, that when we see students hurrying through their repast, as if it were a penance, we imagine the ambushed enemy fast drawing their snares over the unsuspecting victims.

By maintaining vigour of the mind and the body, temperance becomes the parent of all other virtues.—It is this alone which can preserve the system in that nice balance which is necessary to the cultivation of the intellectual powers; it is this alone which gives to the mind that clearness by which it is fitted for the investigation of truth; and it is this alone which can enable us to attain advanced life in the full possession of our faculties. Temperance renders our operations vigorous and effectual; and by making study less fatiguing, enables us to continue our application for a longer period than we could do without its aid. The history of celebrated men affords us models of sobriety;—Plato, Galen, Cicero, Virgil, Gassendi, Newton, were of this number. The life of Cornaro is an example of the good effects of temperate habits, and the consequences which result from an opposite course. He relates that he was forced to abandon those indulgencies to which his inclination led him, by finding himself, at the age of thirty five years, subject to frequent attacks of the gout, and with a constitution so impaired, as to afford little hope of his recovery. He however made the experiment, which succeeded beyond his hopes. He prescribed to himself certain rules, to which he resolutely adhered; and at the age of sixty years, when he wrote his work, was in full strength both of mind and of body.

MORALITY OF PHYSICIANS.

At a period previous to the christian era, the practice of Physic and the teaching of Philosophy were entrusted to the same individuals, and esteemed but branches of the same profession. Hippocrates was the first who embraced Medicine only, and from his time it became the sole care of one person to make himself master of that alone; thus he rendered his favorite pursuit, as far as the nature of things would admit, a separate and independent science. Its natural relations, it was not in his power to alter;—they must remain forever unchanged. It was our Saviour who made Physic, which in ancient days had been the companion of Philosophy, the handmaid of Religion; and this sacred union gave it a stamp of divinity which has made not only the science, but its professors respected, wherever christianity has enlightened the minds of the people. Though the professions of Divinity and Medicine are now entirely distinct, yet their relation to each other is still most in-

timiate and most important. By telling the people that CHRIST and his disciples acted the part not only of Prophets and Priests in the world, but of Physicians also, the Clergyman dispels some of their worst prejudices, and thus enables us to extend the benefits of our profession; whilst our researches into the wonderful structure of the human frame, afford to the Theologian many arguments, which no infidel can resist, in proof of the existence, the power and the wisdom of the great Designer.

We have heard it said that Physicians are generally bad men, and ridicule all kinds of religion.* Though the world is now too much enlightened to heed such an accusation, we cannot avoid saying one word in vindication of our professional character. Few opinions which are so utterly absurd, have perhaps a more plausible foundation in truth:—the observations of medical men, in which effects succeed so immediately their causes, teach them most forcibly the fallacy of imaginary doctrines, and how they insinuate themselves involuntarily and unconsciously into the conversation and the creed; hence are they led to ridicule, most cordially, those fanciful and often absurd theories, which fanatics are constantly harping upon, and which tend to drive far from them those *more important* principles, which are neglected only because they are not also *more fascinating*. Thus has arisen the mistaken notion that Physicians ridicule religion,—an opinion which has been sometimes confirmed by the fact that they are not seen at church quite so often as many persons think they ought to be. But it is not our *inclination* that keeps us from church; for if our pleasure were our guide, we could not long doubt whether to visit the gloomy chambers of sickness and of sorrow, or the bright mansions of our God.

The continual occurrence of events which admonish us, in the most solemn manner, of the uncertainty of life, casts upon the mind of the Physician a gloom which must rather tend to make him a better man, than to excite any disrespect for the affairs of religion. Even at the time when calumny has been most profuse in its invectives, our science has received a sanction and authority from the upright conduct, sound morality, and pure religion of its professors. The piety of Sydenham and of Hoffman, made their learning more respected and more influential. Boerhaave, Cullen and Haller, were all equally illustrious for their morals, as for their great professional erudition; and the excellent individual characters of those distinguished men, Rush, Miller, Warren, and Barton, who were the pride and ornament of their age and country, afforded them a thousand opportunities of displaying the power and usefulness of their profession, which men of equal learning, but bad morals, would never have enjoyed. We con-

* This sentiment is sometimes *delicately* hinted at in public journals, e. g. :—

There is another class of men who spend all their days among tears and groans, the dying and the dead, having their attention and affections specially called and directed to the frailties of nature and the harbingers of mortality; and yet, it is to be feared, that none are so callous and thoughtless as they! I need not inform my readers that Physicians are here intended.—While they are perhaps sufficiently solicitous and alive to the state of their patients, and their own reputation as practitioners, a strange apathy pervades their moral powers; and one would think they had been long administering to themselves anodynes and narcotics to benumb all religious sensibilities. Day and night, during a long life, are assiduously devoted to the cure of the bodily diseases of *others*, while the dead maladies of their *own hearts* are unfelt and uncured, having never applied to the Physician of souls.—*Worcester Spy*—

sider moral excellence as equally important in the character of a Physician, with professional skill; and no man of reflection can help acknowledging in his heart, the numerous obligations we are under to religion, for its aid in extending the benefits of the profession, in giving it that exalted rank which it now holds in the estimation of the great and good, and in investing it with those alluring charms which it now presents to the aspiring as well as to the benevolent.

THE LAST SICKNESS OF LORD BYRON.

A fortnight ago, we spoke of the accounts, as far as they had then been received, of the post mortem examination of this noble Poet; we recorded the absurd expression used by the London Examiner, touching the cause of this fatal event, and the ridiculous logic of the Physicians who conducted the dissection,—a melancholy example of sophistic reasoning, which evinced the wicked motive that led to it, and the ignorance and prejudice which justified it in the view of its authors. We then endeavoured to show the folly of attributing the cause of his Lordship's death to "his refusing to be bled", and that the feeble state into which his constitution had been brought by the fatigues of a glorious struggle, would have been increased by venesection; that it would have diminished his power of contending with his disease, and so far from fortifying him against its ravages, the lancet would but have rendered him an easier and an earlier victim.

See, now, readers, the justice of our remarks. Since the publication of our last paper, a minute detail of the last moments of Lord Byron has been received through the English Journals. It was collected from the mouth of Mr Fletcher, who was for more than twenty years the constant and confidential attendant of his Lordship. Every line bears with it such strong internal evidence of authenticity, as entitles it to implicit belief; and we wish our friends, after having examined the dogmatical history given by those physicians who formed a peremptory decision from the appearance of the body after it had been carried all the way to London, to read the following extract from the account of one who was *on the spot*, and watched every incident connected with the last moments of his distinguished master, and then say whether "*Lord Byron died in consequence of refusing to be bled, when he had an inflammation of the chest.*"

"With respect to the medicines that were given to my master," says Mr Fletcher, "I could not persuade myself that those of a strong purgative nature were the best adapted to his complaint; concluding that as he had nothing on his stomach, the only effect would be to create pain; indeed this must have been the case with a person in perfect health. The whole nourishment taken by my master for the last eight days, consisted of a small quantity of broth at two or three different times, and two spoonfuls of arrow-root on the 18th, the day before his death. The first time I heard of there being an intention of bleeding his Lordship, was on the 15th, when it was proposed by Dr Bruno, but objected to at first by my master, who asked Mr Millingen if there was any great reason for taking blood; the latter replied that it might be of service, but added that it could be deferred till the next day. And accordingly my master was bled in the right arm on the evening of the 16th, and a pound of blood was taken. I observed at the time that it had a most inflamed appearance. Dr Bruno

now began to say he had frequently urged my master to be bled, but that he always refused.—A long dispute now arose about the time that had been lost, and the necessity of sending for medical assistance to Zante, upon which I was informed for the first time, that it would be of no use, as my master would be better, or no more, before the arrival of Dr Thomas. His Lordship continued to get worse, but Dr Bruno said he thought letting blood again would save his life; and I lost no time in telling my master how necessary it was to comply with the Doctor's wishes; to this he replied by saying, he feared they knew nothing about his disorder, and then stretching out his arm said, 'Here, take my arm, and do whatever you like.' His Lordship continued to get weaker; on the 17th he was bled twice, in the morning and at two o'clock in the afternoon; the bleeding at both times was followed by fainting fits, and he would have fallen down more than once had I not caught him in my arms. In order to prevent such an accident, I took care not to let his Lordship stir without supporting him. On this day my master said to me twice—'I cannot sleep, and you well know I have not been able to sleep for more than a week; I know,' added his Lordship, 'that a man can only be a certain time without sleep, and then he must go mad without any one being able to save him; and I would ten times sooner shoot myself than be mad, for I am not afraid of dying; I am more fit to die than people think.' I do not, however, believe that his Lordship had any apprehension of his fate till the day after, the eighteenth, when he said, 'I fear you and Tita will be ill by sitting up constantly, night and day.' I answered, 'we shall never leave your Lordship till you are better'. As my master had a slight fit of delirium on the 16th, I took care to remove the pistols and stiletto which had hitherto been kept at his bedside in the night. On the 18th his Lordship addressed me frequently, and seemed to be very much dissatisfied with his medical treatment. I then said, 'Do allow me to send for Dr Thomas;' to which he answered—'Do so, but be quick. I am only sorry that I did not let you do so before, as I am sure they have mistaken my disease; write yourself, for I know he would not like to see other Doctors here.' I did not lose a moment in obeying my master's orders, and on informing Dr Bruno and Mr Millingen of it, they said it was very right, as they now began to be afraid themselves. On returning to my master's room, his first words were, 'Have you sent?' 'I have, my lord,' was my answer: upon which he said, 'You have done right, for I should like to know what is the matter with me.' Although his Lordship did not appear to think his dissolution was so near, I could perceive he was getting weaker every hour, and he even began to have occasional fits of delirium." His Lordship expired soon after.

REPORTS.

LOCAL EFFLUVIA.

The following is a melancholy instance of those *familial fevers* which so frequently occur, and baffle the ingenuity of the faculty to ascertain the true cause. The presumption is that it depends on both local circumstances and peculiarity of constitution.

Chester, (Penn.) Sept. 1824.—Died on the 17th of the 8th month last, Rachel Palmer, daugh-

ter of John Palmer, of Concord township, aged about 16 years. On the 22d of the same month, John Palmer, brother of the above, aged 18 years. On the 27th of the same month, Lewis Palmer, another brother, aged 22 years.

The disease which so suddenly hastened to the tomb these three blooming youths, is ascribed to a local cause. An old building, in a state of decay, which had been used for a milk-house, standing fifteen or twenty yards from the door of the dwelling, had become partly filled with water and rubbish of various kinds, such as weeds and decayed logs; the fowls had roosted under its roofs until it became offensive both to the sight and smell. The water of the well, which was situated between this old building and the dwelling, became also offensive and unfit for use. Doctors Marsh, (the regular physician,) Hamor, and Jacques, the latter of Wilmington, were all of opinion that the disease originated from this old building. The fever, which was stubborn and unremitting, and baffled all their skill, assumed towards its termination a typhus and malignant character. Four more of the same family, viz. the grandmother, a young man, brother to the former, and two children, are lying dangerously ill with the same complaint.

The chance of recovery had become so hopeless, by remaining at the dwelling, and the alarm and sympathy of the neighbourhood had become so much excited, that it was thought best for the whole family to abandon it at present. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon those who opened their doors to receive them, for their benevolence and liberality.

ABSORPTION OF PUS,

DURING THE DISSECTION OF AN ABSCESS.

Mr Callow, Surgeon in the British Army, was engaged in the examination of a body, the abdomen of which contained a large abscess. From a desire to learn exactly the seat of this abscess, the liver and each of the viscera were separately examined. During a period of more than two hours, the operator's hands were necessarily immersed in the purulent matter with which every part of the abdominal cavity was deluged. A small puncture was received in the thumb of the right hand, from a spicula of bone, during the investigation; but this at the time excited no notice.

The succeeding day was one of much bodily fatigue, as he was preparing to leave his regiment for a few days on a visit to London, the journey towards which city was commenced by mounting a stage coach at five o'clock that evening. At midnight, without any premonitory symptom, an acute pain suddenly planted itself in the situation of the puncture in the thumb, which was immediately succeeded by a shivering fit. The fact of the absorption of virus was now evident, and the anxiety occasioned thereby was excessive. Immediate remedies being requisite, the accidental situation in the midst of a journey became perplexing. It was necessary either to descend at the first inn upon the road, and to have recourse to remedies among strangers, or to proceed fifty miles further, to the residence of his friends. The latter alternative was adopted.

The period required to reach this wished for asylum, was one of extreme mental anxiety, and acute bodily suffering—the thumb and three fin-

gers momentarily becoming more painful, with the most violent rigors rapidly succeeding each other. The distance at length accomplished, retirement to a warm bed was instantly adopted, and the assistance of medical friends immediately summoned. For some hours after this period, the most deadly coldness pervaded the whole frame, more especially the lower extremities, which were almost devoid of feeling, and nearly deprived of circulation; while the hand was assuming much tumefaction, and the pain extending up the fore-arm. After continuation, for a considerable time and with much assiduity, of the application of artificial heat to the stomach and extremities, a most violent stage of reaction set in. The sensations experienced during this paroxysm were of a most insupportable nature, and bore a stronger affinity to an attack of hydrophobia than to any other disease to which it could be assimilated. The degree of heat upon the surface was such, that one limb could not be borne in contact with another. Pain in the head was so violent, with such a feeling of internal heat, that the brain seemed on fire; and rapidly succeeding spasms of the diaphragm threatened to suspend respiration. Deglutition of fluids was rendered most difficult, while thirst was excessive. The stomach became exceedingly irritable, a severe pain seized upon the loins, the affection of the hand and fore-arm became agonizing, while vivid red streaks in the course of the lymphatics indicated the progress of absorption of the poison.

The warm bath at this period produced a profuse perspiration, and was attended with very salutary effects; the abstraction of blood from the arm by leeches sensibly diminished the pain, and restrained considerably the tension; but these measures, aided by the most direct sedatives and cathartics, appeared to exert their influence but a few hours, when every symptom became exasperated: the pain and tension occupied the whole of the fore-arm, and the inflamed line of the lymphatics reached to the inside of the elbow-joint. Recourse was again had to leeches, with immersion in warm water of the whole limb. Successively the paroxysm returned, and more or less relief was invariably obtained by the assiduous repetition of the measure, especially by leeching, and the immersion of the limb in very hot water.

Two days after the commencement of the attack, the axillary glands had become enlarged, and were very tender to the touch. A stage of excitement and exasperation of the symptoms regularly set in every twelve hours; but the progress of the absorption was evidently arrested at the bend of the fore-arm, to which the inflamed lymphatics could be traced, but no farther. The anguish of the hand was still so great, that narcotics failed entirely to induce the least repose. On the fourth day the stage of excitement was more tardy in its commencement, and more brief in its decline; but as yet there was no distinct remission. The state of the limb was become stationary, but no absolute amendment could be recognized, nor sleep obtained more than a few minutes at a time. After this period great disposition was manifested in the limb to form depots of matter. This was however prevented; but at the distance of five weeks from the accident, a formation of pus was apprehended at the root of the thumb.

After the lapse of the first week, amendment, though slow, was progressive: paroxysms occurred irregularly for twenty days from the attack; after which, some natural sleep was enjoyed, the pain abated, and the soreness of the axillary glands disappeared. But the hand remained almost void of sensation, and totally deprived of motion; with the biliary functions suspended, the stomach in the most irritable state, and the bodily powers prostrate. At the time of the statement, (five weeks from the accident,) the functions of the animal powers were much deranged; the hand had but little sensation or motion; the fingers were strongly disposed to contract into the palm, and the hand to approach the fore-arm; pain was still present, and considerable oedema distending the hand and fingers.

INTELLIGENCE.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE, IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.—The Medical department of this College, which has been contemplated from the origin of the Institution, is now so far organized, that a course of Lectures on the various branches of that science may be expected to commence within a few months. The Professors in that department, are—Thomas Sewall, M. D. Professor of Anatomy and Physiology; James M. Staughton, M. D. Professor of Surgery and Chemistry; Thomas Henderson, M. D. Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic; Nicholas W. Worthington, M. D. Professor of Materia Medica.

BERKSHIRE LECTURES.—The class attending the medical lectures at the Berkshire Medical Institution, consists of about one hundred. The courses are not yet so far advanced but that other students will find it for their advantage to commence attendance.

EXTRAORDINARY OPERATION.—Mr Robertson, Surgeon at the General Hospital Ship, Sheerness, (Scotland) lately performed the amputation of the thigh by the double flap operation, *without the use of the Tourniquet*; as recommended by Mr Liston, of Edinburgh. Mr R. also employed the dissecting forceps to secure the arteries, as Mr L. has long recommended, and practised with extraordinary success. The operation did not occupy longer than a minute and a half, and not six ounces of blood were lost! The pain to the patient was comparatively trifling. This is the first time, we believe, that this operation has been performed on that side the Tweed. We have no doubt it will soon become universal, as it only requires to be once seen, to convince every man possessed of brains enough to be capable of being convinced by reason, that the operation by the double incision, as practised at present, is barbarous and unscientific, and that the tourniquet only serves to distort the limb, and mislead the Surgeon as to the formation of the flap.

CYSTIC OXYD.—In a letter to Mr Children, Editor of the Annals of Philosophy, mention is made of *cystic oxyd* having been discovered in gravel from a human body;—the same was afterwards found in the urine. In this urine, the *uric acid* was almost totally wanting, nor was the *urea* in the usual quantity. This is the first time this substance has been remarked in the urine, though Dr Wollaston had noticed it in concretions.

INDIAN RUBBER.—has been found successfully applied to the purposes of a blow-pipe. The bottles of this substance can be expanded to a considerable size by condensing air in them.—An application of this substance to cloth, whether woolen or cotton, has been found to render it water proof, while it strengthens it, without materially altering its appearance.

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.—Dr Dunlop, who has lately delivered a most interesting course on Medical Jurisprudence in Edinburgh, is preparing for the press a re-publication of the American Dr Beck's celebrated lectures on that important subject. It will be ready for publication before the ensuing winter.

AQUATIC INTELLIGENCE.—Dr McCulloch, who lately published an interesting paper on the herring, has furnished another still more so, "On the possibility of changing the residence of certain fishes from salt water to fresh."

SINGULAR COINCIDENCE.—At an obscure house in a court in Piccadilly, appropriated for the purposes of an Anatomical School, a poor woman occupies the ground floor, who actually deals in *muscles*; her husband is a *bone* merchant, they take in washing, and over the door is a board with this inscription—*Mungling done here!*

A remarkable anecdote of Corvisart has recently been published by M. Pariset. This physician had so extensive and intimate a knowledge of pathognomic signs, that he could discover the most hidden disease merely by looking at the countenance. One day seeing the portrait of a person of whom he knew nothing, "That man," said he, "must have died of a disease of the heart." The fact was inquired into, and was found to be as Corvisart had declared!!

Prince Hohenlohe is about operating on a Miss M^{rs} Muldoon, of Monaghan. She is afflicted with a *wooden leg*, which, it was firmly believed, his highness would transubstantiate into pure flesh and blood.

An Apothecary in Durham has the following words written in his shop-window—"All sorts of *dying stuffs* sold here."

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending October 9th; from the Health-Office Returns.

October 2d.—Mary Mansfield, 12 mo.; Ann Buckley; Catharine Jinter, 32; Susan Merritt, 3; Mary Stimpson, 3 weeks; Sylvanus Burrill, 67. 3d.—Mary Banner, 45; Dolly Anderson, 43. 4th.—William Grives; Edward Phelps, 18; Betsey Stickney, 48; — Thompson; David Sullivan, 10 mo. 5th.—Marvin C. Delano, 24; John Kendrick, 54; Rebecca R. Spear, 3 mo.; — Brewer, 9 days; William Sargent, 4. 6th.—Barnes Dwight Nixon; Mary Ann Quick; Mary Ann Wright; Mary B. Tilton, 9 mo.; John H. Horton, 13 mo.; Elizabeth Colesworth, 19; Mary Larasey, 31; Samuel A. Lewis, 14 mo. 7th.—Albert Metcalf, 23 mo.; Ann Eustis, 32. 8th.—Disdama Diston; Cynthia Boody; James Pittee, 3; Robert H. Burbeck, 4 mo.; Caroline M. Seaver, 4; William Andrews, 50; Samuel Brigham, 40. 9th.—Daniel Sweat, 52.

Dysentery, 2—*Consumption*, 4—*Bilious Fever*, 1—*Abscess in the Head*, 1—*Gravel*, 1—*Lung Fever*, 2—*Palsy*, 1—*Typhus Fever*, 3—*Stillborn*, 1—*Brain Fever*, 1—*Infantile*, 3—*Dropsy in the Head*, 2—*Cholera Morbus*, 1—*Childbed*, 1—*Croup*, 1—*Liver Complaint*, 1—*Intemperance*, 1.

To Teachers of Anatomy and Surgery.

THE Subscriber is engaged in making a Magnified Brain, from four to five feet round, in plaster and wax, minutely accurate, and naturally coloured, exhibiting the origin of the *cerebral nerves*. It revolves upon an axis, admirably calculated for demonstration to a large class, at a distance from the demonstrator.—Gentlemen desirous of securing one of these, are requested to forward their orders immediately. Price 40 dollars, without the arteries, and with them, 50 dollars.

School-street, Boston.

H. WILLIAMS.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER :

Published weekly, at two dollars a year. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

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Dr Elisha D. Payne, Freedom, Baltimore Co. Md.
Dr John W. Barkwell, Shine's Store, Twiggs, Co. Geo.
Dr Robert Carr Lane, Mobile, Alabama.

We have forwarded proposals to gentlemen in most of the large towns in different parts of the union; when answers are received, their names will be inserted.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1824.

No. 23.

OBSERVATIONS.

ON THE MODE OF OBTAINING MEDICAL OFFICES.

A laudable ambition will excite every man of dignified feeling or noble sentiment, to strive for excellence, and induce him to value every honourable mean of professional advancement, as the road to that eminence, his superior talents, or higher merit, entitle him to hold. When such an individual finds an avenue to promotion open, his serious inquiry is whether he is qualified to fill with credit to himself, and service to others, a post of honour, or profit. To possess an exalted station with inferior claims, he would never desire; knowing full well, under such circumstances, elevation would be disgrace. Nor would the love of precedence ever induce him to resort to any measure for its attainment, which the finest delicacy would not approve, or strict integrity warrant.

But there are inferior souls, who forgetting the true aim, make priority of place their measure of desert, and pant for its attainment, without seeming to consider that excellence alone can make it honourable. These know not how to make station respectable by sterling merit.—All they have learned, is to value *themselves* on it. Promotion is the just reward of merit, but can furnish no solid pretension to it.

What beauty can a mirror reflect, when deformity is placed before it? What credit can lofty situation give, to an unworthy incumbent?

When men of the latter description start for eminence, they soon find the road of virtue too steep and rugged; turn off into the by-path of intrigue and manoeuvre, seizing on any adventitious aid, unmindful of every thing but the attainment of their purpose.

"A friend or brother, they defame,
And sooth, and flatter, those they hate."

With them the end justifies the means, and no honourable competition can be expected. It is therefore not surprising, that in a contest so unequal, merit should be sometimes cast into the shade, and public favour be injudiciously bestowed. Here, however, the successful need not boast their ill gained victory, nor the more deserving envy them, for the light these ephemera seek, will be their destruction.

The mouse may climb over the imprisoned elephant, or the ass assume the lion's skin; but a squeak or a bray must soon expose their low nature. Solid virtue can only *pity* towering meanness, and *despise* exalted demerit. Jealousy is a fault we should never be betrayed into by those who purchase advancement with dishonour. All we have to regret is the character they for a time give to the profession. Having reached a height which renders their faults more conspicuous, they shamelessly indulge them, in the belief that they are above censure. Constant exhibition renders the picture more familiar, vice becomes less odious, dishonour loses its asperities, example soon palliates what virtue condemns, artifice and juggle grow fashionable, and many employ the false currency because unable to detect the imposture. What they desire they

unhesitatingly seek, and precedent extenuates even guilt. It is sometimes inconvenient to recur to first principles, and custom is made the ready plea for their violation.

Thus, by a system of overreaching, we are working our own ruin. But let me ask the man who owes his promotion to unfair management, where is his satisfaction? Can he enjoy his victory over a rival only less fortunate because less intriguing? Can he witness the downfall of his profession and plume himself on his own elevation? Can he find public regard withdrawing itself from him, and console himself with the thought that others are *more* dishonoured?

It is not my wish, however, to be understood as bestowing indiscriminate censure, even on those who deviate from the line of rectitude.—There are doubtless honourable men, who, thinking it necessary to adopt the motto—*do in Rome as Rome does*, believe themselves justifiable in meeting their competitors on their own ground; but we fear too many, conscious of inferiority, plead custom, and pursue unmanly measures as their only hope of advancement. To the latter I have nothing to say; with them reproach or persuasion would be alike ineffectual; let them, if they can, glory in their own disgrace. The former will (I trust) gladly embrace a more honourable policy, and them solely I now address.

If, on the creation or vacancy of any place which you think yourselves qualified to fill, you determine to seek its attainment, make a fair and regular application, and if you have superior claims, state them respectfully. Urge nothing with the earnestness of the suppliant, but show, by your independent, though polite manner, you deserve what you ask. Never condescend to the base trick of electioneering. To a noble mind obligation is always painful, but *who* that possesses one spark of generous sentiment, can brook the thought of soliciting favour from those he lightly esteems? Every man, however humble his station, if he fill it with integrity, should be treated with respect; but mere moral rectitude cannot enable him to judge of intellectual worth, or scientific attainment. Now it often happens, even where men strictly honest are preferred to the management of public institutions, that stupidity, or ignorance, or both, characterize the individual whose decision is to influence your fortune. Here you should possess too much real dignity to allow yourselves to urge claims where they cannot be appreciated, and thus acquire the reputation of empty braggarts. To boast superiority before men entirely unqualified to estimate medical pretensions, is degrading; but to court, and compliment, and flatter, and importune those whom, under common circumstances you would be scarcely willing to recognize, is meanness in the very extreme.—Whatever is reduced to the level of a mean capacity, will be lightly valued. This course of office begging, and favour seeking, must therefore defeat its object, for in this way preferment can only be bought by a sacrifice of character. Moreover, it is almost universally true, that rapid growth indicates speedy decay, and the man

who rises into notice by a puff, will soon find his airy height dangerous, and his support feeble.

Then do not, as you regard the interest of the profession, and your own ultimate advantage, follow the unworthy course. Let your acquirements be solid, your principles sound, your resolution firm, your attention strict: in a word, make yourselves useful and necessary to the public, and wait the event. Your advancement may be slow, but it will be sure and lasting. The breath of popularity may be unpropitious for a time, but it cannot harm you. Even its reproaches will leave you spotless. The deep extending root makes no display; it grows unseen, and works almost unheeded; but when the storm gathers, it sustains the stately tree, and, if in the conflict its foliage is stripped, has power to renew its spreading beauties. When the elements are hushed, and the sky becomes serene, we admire the virtue that defied the blast, and the succeeding calm invigorates its strength, and develops new graces; while the solar warmth but tends to wither the fallen honours of unrooted ambition.

Injured excellence *must* revive, but there is no redeeming principle in unmasked worthlessness.

OFFICE OF THE NERVES.

Among the subjects which have excited the interest of the medical public of the present day, few are more conspicuous than the office of the nerves. Numbers, papers, pamphlets and books, are daily issuing from the press, and disseminating the fancies of the frivolous, the follies of the ignorant, the speculations of the visionary, or the reasonings and observations of the learned, on this important point of physiological knowledge.—We can safely rank among the latter the following excellent remarks on the separate functions of the nerves, and the seats of sensation and irritation in the brain, which are from a book lately published under the title of "An Elementary System of Physiology—By John Bostock, M. D. London, 1824."

Although we have so little practical knowledge, respecting the parts of the brain, which may serve as the respective centres of the two functions of sensation and volition, some very interesting experiments have been lately made by Mr Bell and M. Magendie, which confirm the opinion that had been advanced by physiologists, as a plausible conjecture, that the transmission of these two powers from the extremities to the brain, or from the brain to the extremities, is effected by different nerves, or at least by different nervous filaments. The nerves that proceed from the spine have a double origin, or are composed of two nerves—one proceeding from the anterior, and the other from the posterior part of the cord. Now, it has been found, by direct experiment, that the parts to which the nerves are sent, are deprived of motion and sensation respectively, according as the anterior or posterior roots of the nerves are divided. From this separation of the functions of the nerves and the appropriation of each function to a separate organ, we gain an analogical argument for the same kind of separation in the brain; and this

conjecture would appear to be sanctioned by the experiments of M. Flourens and M. Rolando.

A very interesting series of facts has been lately brought forward by Mr Bell, respecting the functions of the nerves, which throws considerable light upon their mode of action, and their connection with the other parts of the system. There are certain circumstances in the anatomical structure and the distribution of the nerves, which led to the arrangement of them into two classes, and which indicated that they each serve different purposes in the animal economy. From the situation of these two sets of nerves, with respect to their origin, and to each other, Mr Bell has given them the names of symmetrical or original, and irregular or super-added. The first set (which might perhaps be called, more properly, the general nerves) consists of the fifth pair of the cranial, and all the spinal nerves; they have double roots, one of which is connected with ganglia; they pass laterally to the two halves of the body, the two sides having no connection with each other, and they are distributed to all the parts that are under the control of the will. They appear to be the organs of perception and volition, deriving, as we may conjecture, these two functions from their double roots. These we may regard as that part of the nervous system which serves the purpose of establishing our connection with the external world.

Mr Bell's second set of nerves proceed by single roots from the base of the medulla oblongata, or the parts immediately connected with it; they proceed in a much more irregular manner than the former, and are distributed to all the organs which are concerned, either directly or indirectly, in the function of respiration. From this circumstance they have received the denomination of respiratory nerves, as well as that of superadded or irregular. Their course is designated by this last term, as they pass from one organ to another in the most intricate manner, connecting them together, passing across the general nerves, occasionally uniting with them, and forming the connecting link between the two halves of the body. These nerves are not under the control of the will, and are not capable of exciting perception; they are, therefore furnished only with the faculty of transmitting the nervous influence, or with what Dr Philip styles nervous power, in opposition to sensorial. Some very curious and important pathological deductions have been made by Mr Bell, from the new views which he has given us on the subject of the nerves; and we have also a number of additional remarks by Mr Shaw, which confirm and illustrate Mr Bell's doctrines, and give us reason to expect that they may be applied with great advantage to the practice of medicine and surgery.

The result of our observations upon the nervous system and its functions is, that it has two distinct powers, that of receiving and transmitting impressions, which is exercised by the nerves and spinal cord, and that of perception and volition, which is more immediately exercised by the brain. Upon this principle Blumenbach has arranged the organs of these functions into the two classes of sensorial, comprehending the brain and its immediate appendages, and the nervous, properly so called, including the nerves, the plexuses and the ganglia. The sensorial organs

are the exclusive seat of the powers of perception and volition, and of the intellectual faculties; while the office of the nerves is to serve as media of communication between the common centre and the organs of sense and motion.

GHOSTS—HOBGOBLINS.

The following remarks on the subject of apparitions appeared in a late Washington paper.

TO THE EDITORS.

GENTLEMEN—Quero has inquired in your paper of this morning—What fixed laws of nature forbid the apparition of Ghosts? I will tell him.

1st. Unsubstantial things, by the fixed laws of nature, are beyond the reach of the animal senses; which alone can be supposed to recognize the presence of ghosts.

2d. As all the animals except man are supposed to perish entirely, soul as well as body, in death, there cannot be a ghost of any other animal than man.

3d. As all the substantial part of man, by the fixed laws of nature, rot, and return to mother earth, there can nothing remain of man to form a ghost of but his spirit, or soul, which is immaterial and unsubstantial, and therefore beyond the reach of the animal senses; therefore is it that ghosts cannot possibly be seen by any living animal.

— QUOTH.

[It is hoped QUOTH will excuse the Editors for appending the following to his positions:

4th. Admitting the possibility of the emanation of a spiritual from an animal substance after death, which some very worthy people yet believe in, it will not be contended, even by those who hold that belief, that the inanimate garments which the body wore while living, or those which shroud it when defunct, are also possessed of a soul, which is capable of attending the soul from the body. Naked we came into the world, and naked we go out of it. Now, as one has ever pretended to have seen a *naked ghost*, the apparition of the body is demonstrably a creature of the imagination as well as that of its habiliments, whether those of life or of the grave. The very idea of the ghost of a broadcloth coat or a lutestring frock, is a palpable absurdity. Ghosts must therefore either appear in a state of nature or not at all. They are altogether the creatures of the imagination, having no more real existence than the images of things last seen, which faintly linger on the retina of the eye after its lids are closed.]

TO QUERO.

To "Quero's" query, "I should be glad to know what *fixed* laws of Nature forbid the apparition of Ghosts?" though I am no ghost or hobgoblin, I would answer, that, when a man, woman, or child, is dead, and buried, they cannot conveniently revisit their friends here, because it is a *fixed* law of Nature, that what is inanimate is inert, and, consequently, incapable of action of itself. It is a point in ghostology yet to be determined, whether the breath which animated the body before death, can reanimate it after death; and, thus resuscitated, cause the body to return for the purpose of frightening us poor mortals out of our wits, especially as it may be judged of the deceased that they were sufficiently troublesome while alive.

"Quero" asks, "or what laws of Nature are 'unfixed' by their apparition?" This question

seemingly implies that no *fixed* or *regular* laws govern the works of Nature—a supposition without even a ghostly shadow of foundation. *Order* is heaven's first law; and it is *out of order*, as well as opposed to common sense, and therefore "unfixing" a law of Nature, to suppose that a shade, shadow, ghost, hobgoblin, or what not, can be seen while "darkness covers the face of the earth," and when nobody ever dreamed of seeing such a thing in day light. Nature, every body knows, who knows any thing at all, has settled and defined laws; as, the earth revolves every twenty-four hours; the sun governs the day, and the moon rules the night; each planet performs its revolutions in a stated time; the rivers swell and recede at certain periods; trees blossom, bud, bear fruit, wither, and die, at regular seasons; man is born, arrives at maturity, and, when his proper time is run, slides off this into another world. All these facts, and more, unite in proving that "fixed" laws govern the universe, equally applicable, in their operations, to man, alive or dead. Pope says,

Remember, man, the universal cause

Tends to one end, but acts by gen'ral laws.

In more ignorant times than these, the senses of weak-minded persons have been imposed upon, and nothing is more easily done, even to the strongest minded. When the imagination is bewildered by fear or other irritable causes, the eye, as Shakespeare has it, "shapes every bush a hideous, shapeless devil." To illustrate, more forcibly than I possibly can, the monstrous deceptions which the eyes, governed by an imagination highly wrought upon, practise upon the other senses, the following story will be in point. It is taken from "Wraxwell's Memoirs," and bears on its face unquestioned authenticity. The story is, perhaps, rather too long for newspaper columns, but will serve as a miscellaneous article, if Messrs Editors will publish it.

It is true the story is very long—too long for us to print.

But we can tell a tale to "Quoth" which we should like to hear explained. It is of a gentleman who lost his mistress the night they were to have been married. This afflictive event was rendered doubly severe by the apparition of his departed love, which appeared every night at the foot of his bed, dressed in her wedding garments. Months passed on, and the unfortunate lover continued to be agonized every night by the ghost of one to whom he was most devotedly attached. His friends perceiving that his health suffered from this constant and excessive excitement, reasoned with him on the folly of such imaginations. He was perfectly aware of all this, yet he said he could not help it—the ghost was sure to appear every night, and as sure to distress him beyond description. It will be said that his mind was so much disordered by the sudden transition from the brightest hopes to the most terrible disappointment, that it is not wonderful he should fancy the image of his mistress before him, in those hours when the judgment loses its power over the imagination. But hear the sequel:—In order to convince him of his folly, his friends persuaded the sister of the deceased to dress herself in wedding garments, and in the middle of the night secretly place herself at the foot of the bed where the apparition was usually seen. She did so, and had not stood there long before the distressed lover exclaimed in the most agonizing tone, "ah ciel! en voilà deux!"

—Heavens! there are two of them; was instantly seized with convulsions, and in a few moments expired.

DISORDERS OF LITERARY MEN.—NO. XIV.

5th. FEMALE SOCIETY. In our preceding numbers we have adverted to the best modes of amusement and relaxation for those hours, during which the usual employments of the student are suspended. In making choice of these amusements, reference must be had to the peculiar habits of men of this character; what to vulgar minds would afford satisfaction, can have no charms for them; they require something intellectual, even in their intervals of occupation; and their pleasures must partake more or less of that exalted character which belongs peculiarly to their serious employments. Now nothing is so well calculated to effect the object which we have mentioned, nothing so admirably fitted to fill up the elegant leisure of the scholar, as the society of women. That the society of the intelligent and refined of either sex can afford great pleasure, and that to those who are capable of enjoying it, it is the greatest of all enjoyments, is undoubted;—but the softer sex must be allowed to possess some peculiar advantages. Conversation with men requires some exertion, exacts some labour; there must always be something more or less approaching to contention, in discussions with those who are constituted like ourselves. If our opinions are different, there will be dispute in maintaining, if similar, rivalry in expressing them; & in consequence there will be more or less effort. Now in conversation with women there is nothing of all this; nature has established a mutual spirit of concession between the sexes, which prevents it. If we dispute with a female, it is because by so doing we protract the pleasure of the conversation. If we assent to her opinion, it is the heart which yields before the understanding, and the latter becomes a willing slave to the former. The man of letters experiences this more than any other. Habitually devoted to what is beautiful and engaging, he finds in the society of women his fairest visions realized. Their gaiety charms, and their wit amuses him; while on the other hand, he finds, in the hope of creating a corresponding emotion, both the motive and the means of eloquence.

From the most remote antiquity, at least as long as the sciences and the arts have been cultivated, they have derived more or less aid from this reciprocal feeling, which attracts the sexes toward each other. It is generally believed that Sappho is indebted to her love for Phaon, for much of that celebrity which her beautiful poetry has obtained. The beauty and wit of Aspasia of Miletus, made her house the resort of the science and literature of Greece; all who were distinguished by taste and refinement, flocked to the lectures which she delivered on eloquence, philosophy and politics.—Socrates, Pericles, Alcibiades, were among her disciples; and the former attributed to her instruction all the eloquence which he possessed. Cicero, so celebrated for the purity of his style, asserts that he had perfected it in the polished society of the Roman ladies. Pliny the younger, while engaged in the ardent pursuit of learning, found his highest gratification in the society of Calpurnia, whose fondness for him extended itself to those studies in which he took so lively an interest. In more modern times we have the example of Descartes, who passed at the court of Elizabeth, Princess of Bohemia, his scholar and his friend, the most happy period of his life. He kept up with her a constant correspondence; and when she was unfortunate, offered her that sympathy, which his own ex-

perience of suffering so well fitted him both to apply and appreciate. The attachment of this philosopher to Christiana, Queen of Sweden, is well known. This great princess valued his society so highly, that during the rigors of a northern winter, she received his visits at the hour of five in the morning; a plan which must have imposed a heavy penance both on the philosopher and herself. Many letters of Frederick II, to the countess of Camas, prove how much he valued those intervals of business which he could devote to the conversation of agreeable and intelligent women. Zimmermann devoted his leisure to the society of his wife and some of her female friends, who added to all other charms of the sex, those of an elegant and accomplished mind; and he found in it the best remedy for that melancholy to which he was so remarkably subject. We might lengthen this list by the names of many other men of equal celebrity; but the familiarity of our readers with literary history renders it unnecessary.

It will be observed that in speaking of the pleasures of female society, we have attributed to women something more than the power of fascinating by their beauty, or of amusing an idle hour by their gaiety. These indeed are the qualities of the sex; but those who possess talents and refinement can do more. Such women are the most valuable, as well as the most delightful companions. While their facility of association fits them to engage in any subject, the quickness of their perceptions and fancy enables them to place in a new light that to which their attention is directed. Some women have become distinguished for the depth and success of their scientific researches, while many have been known in conversation to suggest ideas which have proved the germ of the most profound and distinguished works. Condillac says that the idea of his treatise on the Sensations, was suggested to him by some considerations which Mad'le Ferrand had transmitted to him, on the mode in which our ideas are acquired. Zimmermann confessed that his wife was the best critic of his works, that she understood English as well as himself, and Italian much better,—and in our own time we have seen a Madame de Stael, displaying equal brilliancy of imagination and profoundness of reasoning, and boldly coming forward to contend on that field which the other sex had considered exclusively its own.

We will conclude these remarks by suggesting to our fair friends that motive for cultivating their minds, which we are sure will weigh with them more than any other,—viz. the means it will afford them of doing great and important good. Women are neither required nor expected to gain a profound knowledge of the sciences, far less do they add to their charms by a display of their acquirements; but a cultivated taste, and an acquaintance with the various subjects of knowledge, are necessary to give the female character its just weight in polished society; and by enabling them to enter into the feelings and views of those around them, to render them what they should be, the most delightful companions of our hours of relaxation, and the most valuable friends and supporters in periods of melancholy and sorrow. By the versatility of their conversational talents, the profound reflections which fatigue the brain of the student are interrupted by more pleasing and enlivening ideas; by the corruscations of their wit, his darkest hours are most easily and effectually enlightened; and by the mild light of their countenances, when animated by the expression of intelligence, his finest feelings are aroused, and the energies of his whole system refreshed and invigorated.

QUACKS.

In old countries this race of homicides is much more numerous and more daring than among us. Here they usually seek some village remote from the seats of refinement or intelligence, where they quietly impose on the credulity and pick the pockets of the ignorant backwoodsmen. When they come into our cities, they usually settle down in some filthy or retired street, where they may be surrounded by the illiterate; or if they come before the public, it is rather as advertisers and venders of quack medicines, than as practitioners. The act passed by the legislature of this state, confining the right of recovering fees to regular licentiates, has done much to discourage empiricism. It seems however that the general diffusion of knowledge, and the acts of our legislature, are not sufficient to check the progress of the charlatan, or repress his unblushing boldness. Scarcely a week passes that there is not issued from the press in our cities, some scandalous and contemptible blasts, in the form of numbers, pamphlets or advertisements, containing gross and vulgar abuse of the faculty, and the most absurd accounts of the most absurd and impracticable cures. These evils are however less frequent than formerly, and as intelligence and good education become more general among the people, will, we are confident, be entirely done away.

REPORTS.

EFFECT OF TOBACCO.

On Wednesday, the 18th ult. a person applied at the Philadelphia Alms House, requesting that immediate aid should be afforded to a man, who was said to be dying for want of an emetic. Dr Gwinner, the residing physician, immediately went to the house of the patient, in Thirteenth near South street, but found he had expired a few minutes before his arrival.

Dr Gwinner was informed that this unfortunate being had been affected for a few days with simple Ague and Fever—for which had been prescribed a decoction of tobacco: the directions were, that a quarter and half a quarter (3 vi) should be put into a quart of water, and stewed to one pint; the whole of which was to be taken in one dose, with an assurance that it would prove an infallible cure. These directions were implicitly complied with. The effect was almost instantaneous. With difficulty could this unhappy victim of gross ignorance and presumption, ascend to his room on the second floor, when he fell senseless on his bed. A small portion of the poison was rejected by vomiting, and in twenty minutes from the time he had swallowed the fatal dose, he was a corpse!—*Æsc. Reg.*

CHANGE OF COLOUR,

FROM BROWN TO WHITE, IN A NATIVE OF BENGAL.

May 8, 1818.—J. W. aged 56, a native of Bengal, his parents Mahometans, and both dark, left India about the age of ten or eleven, and has since resided in Edinburgh, chiefly as a servant, but since the last nine years as a mason's labourer, and pursuing other casual employment.—During this period he has gradually lost his native dark colour, and become white, which he attributes partly to the climate, and partly to the action of lime and mortar, in his occupation as a mason, which occasioned much itching of the skin. The change commenced in the hands and

head; the hair from being black and lank, has become light grey, and somewhat curled. The parts which last retained the colour, were the breast and back of the neck. The only remains of his original complexion at present are some irregular patches of a dull purplish colour covering the upper parts of the cheeks, and prominences of the ears, and a lighter patch at the tip of the nose. During the change of his colour, no sensible alteration was observed in his health.*

INTELLIGENCE.

ANALYSIS OF THE MALE FERN ROOT.—M. Morin, of Rouen, informs us that this root, which is successfully employed as an athelmintic, owes its virtue to a fatty substance, capable of being converted into a soap, of a nauseous smell resembling that of the root, of a very disagreeable taste, and heavier than water. The roots contain also gallic and acetic acid, some sugar, tannin and starch, a gelatinous matter insoluble in alcohol or water, some woody matter, and the salts usually found in ashes. M. Morin believes this fatty substance to be composed of a fixed and a volatile oil; but he has not yet obtained sufficient proof of this.

ADULTERATION OF TEA.—A writer in the last Philosophical Magazine, mentions the discovery of a black sand in the bottom of a cup which had contained an infusion of black tea. This on examination was found to contain magnetic iron in minute crystals. The same substance was found adhering to the leaves in such quantity, as to enable a magnet to raise small portions of them. Upon macerating some closely twisted masses, a considerable portion of sand was separated, that had evidently been introduced with malice aforethought when the leaves were fresh.

TARTARIZED ANTIMONY.—Dr Gobel having analyzed this valuable article of our materia medica, reports its composition as follows:—protoxyd of antimony, 42, 60—tartaric acid, 45,00—potass, 9,80—water, 3,75.

STATE OF THE BLOOD IN JAUNDICE.—M. Chevreul observes that there are some peculiarities in the blood of children who die of the disease called skin-bound.—If the skin of these subjects is incised, a yellow liquid escapes, composed of albumen, a colouring matter of an orange red, and one of a green colour; and these matters are also found in the bile of these infants. The blood of children with jaundice differs much from that of healthy children, as far as regards the serum; its composition and colour being the same as above mentioned.

AMPUTATION OF THE THIGH.—Dr Mott, of the New York Hospital, has recently performed this operation on a lad of about twelve years of age. The little patient underwent the whole with great fortitude, and is now in a state which promises a favourable issue. Necrosis of the head of the femur was his complaint.

STRUCTURE OF THE GALL-BLADDER.—M. Amusat lately exhibited to the Academy of Medicine several anatomical preparations of the biliary canals, demonstrating the true mechanism of the reflux of the bile from the ductus choledochus into the gall-bladder. M. Amusat has discovered, and shown, the existence of a spiral valve, a sort of Archimedes' vice reversed, with which the neck of the gall-bladder is provided.

COMPRESSED CRANIA.—A very valuable and interesting donation has just been made to the Anatomical Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, by Dr Cornick, of the U. S. Navy. It consists of ten human

heads from the coast of Peru, which, by the employment of pressure during their growth, have been caused to depart from their natural shapes.

DR BIGELOW'S LECTURES.—We are happy to be able to state that this learned and interesting lecturer will repeat in town, during the winter, a part of his course delivered at Cambridge, on the application of the arts and sciences to the useful purposes of life.

DARTMOUTH MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At a meeting of the members of this society, the following gentlemen were chosen officers:—Daniel Oliver, M. D. Chancellor—John M. Broadhead, Pres.—Nath. Manning, Vice Pres.—William H. Peabody, Rec. Sec.—L. V. Bell, Corresponding Secretary.—E. M. Gregg, Treasurer.—N. C. Tibbetts, Librarian.

BOSTON DISPENSARY.—By the returns made to the government of this excellent institution, it appears, that from Oct. 10, 1823, to Sept. 25, 1824, the visiting Physicians of the Dispensary attended to 1403 cases; of which 1138 were cured or relieved, and 89 died. Of the deaths, one person had arrived at the age of 106 yrs.

CLIMATE OF NEWPORT.—Within a very few years, in four different instances, they have recorded the deaths of three persons in that town, within the space of a week, who were upwards of eighty years. In one paper last week will be found the deaths of four persons, who lived in that town and vicinity, whose united ages amounted to three hundred and thirty-five years.

THE ETHERIAL PHYSICIAN.—A book bearing this singular title, has been published at Troy, N. Y. Its object is to show the importance of resorting to electricity for the cure of numerous diseases.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE GENOESE PHYSICIANS.—In Genoa, there are regular marriage-brokers, who have pocket books filled with the names of marriageable girls, of different classes, with notes descriptive of their figures and fortunes. These people go about endeavouring to arrange connexions; if they succeed, they get a commission of two or three per cent upon the marriage portion. The contents of their memorandums are said to be very curious.

SPEAKING WITHIN BOUNDS.—E. A. Talbot, Esq. who has published in London, two volumes of travels in Canada and the United States, relates that in Canada flies are so numerous that a child can scarcely open its mouth without running the risk of being suffocated by the quantity of them "which eagerly try to descend down its throat"! The bull-frogs, according to the same tourist, are so big that they can destroy "a gosling of a month old"—the humming-birds kill the ravens at a stroke, "by darting, with the speed of lightning, their slender bills into the bodies of their sable antagonists," and the boys ride the large sturgeons in the river St Lawrence. "True, 'pon honour."

A PRESCRIPTION FROM THE MOON.
The man in the moon look'd down one night,
Where a lad and his lass were walking;
Thinks he there must be very huge delight
In this kissing and nonsense-talking:
And so there must, 'tis a well known case,
For it lasts both late and early.
So they talk'd him down till he cover'd his face,
—They tired his patience fairly.

Then up rose the sun in his morning beams,
And push'd back his night-cap to greet them;
Says he,—“As you boast of your darts and flames,
My darts and flames shall meet them.”
He scorch'd them both through the live-long day,
But they never once seemed to mind him,
But laugh'd outright as he skulk'd away,
And left a dark world behind him.

Then the man in the moon look'd down in a pet,
And said, “I believe I can cure you;
Though my brother has fail'd, I may conquer yet—
If not, I must try to endure you.
Go home,” he cried, “and attend to my rules,
And banish all thoughts of sorrow,
Then marry at once, you couple of fools,
And you'll both be wise tomorrow.”

DISINTERESTED BENEVOLENCE.—A noted oculist was in a room crowded with company, and was asked what he thought of such a lady—was it not a pity that she squinted? “Squint, Sir,” replied the infallible doctor, “I wish every body in the room did the same; there is not, I assure you, a man in Europe who can cure squinting but myself.”

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending October 16th; from the Health-Office Returns.

October 9th.—Nathaniel B. Pickett, 27; Seth Mayo, 38; —Ham. 11th.—Edward Rhoads; Edward O'Neil, 6; Bridget Doyle, 16 mo.; Mary Portenton, 18 mo.; Abigail N. Eayrs, 4; John T. Mitchell, 30. 12th.—Abraham Sanery, 75; Sally Ann Kelley, 12 months. 13th.—Mary L. Wells, 16; Samuel H. Jenkins, 14 mo.; John Porter, 15 mo. 14th.—Francis G. Turner, 13 mo.; Susan M. Hayden, 5 mo.; Linus Bond; Ann Collins, 38. 15th.—Martha Pemberton, 2 weeks; Eliab S. Foster; Job Thomas; Susanna Veazie, 34; Anstie Greene, 84. 16th.—Robert Sherman; John Brown, 35; Azubah Plantain.

Typhus Fever, 1—Apoplexy, 1—Stillborn, 1—Bilious Fever, 1—Hooping Cough, 2—Inflammatory Fever, 1—Dysentery, 2—Debility, 1—Measles, 1—Consumption, 1—Dropsy in the Head, 1—Canker, 2—Fits, 1—Complaint of the Bowels, 1—Intemperance, 1—Old Age, 1—Brain Fever, 1.

DIED.—Oct. 7th, at the Berkshire Medical Institution, of a typhus fever, Mr Merrit Ives, aged 25 years, a member of that Institution, distinguished for his amiable disposition, unostentatious deportment, and the purity of his character. As a botanist, he displayed judgment and intelligence, and the herbarium which he had been long preparing, is now deposited in the cabinet of the Institution, to be a lasting testimony of his diligence and discrimination. All public exercises in the Institution were suspended two days, as a particular mark of respect for the memory of Mr Ives, and the students of his class gave the strongest evidence of the estimation in which he was held by them. On the Sunday following, the funeral was attended by nearly one hundred medical students, accompanied by the whole faculty, as mourners, before whom the Rev. Mr Bailey, late professor of languages in the Norwich Military Academy, delivered a very learned and feeling address, appropriate to the solemn and melancholy occasion.—We are authorized in saying that there is no case of fever now existing, but a general health among the members of the Institution, and that its prosperity and success in promoting the march of science gives pleasure to the trustees, and satisfaction to an interested community.

In Hartford, Conn. Dr Matthew Brownson, æt. 77.—In England, Dr Napier. He opened his veins in six places, and bled himself to death.

To Teachers of Anatomy and Surgery.

THE Subscriber is engaged in making a Magnified Brain, from four to five feet round, in plaster and wax, minutely accurate, and naturally coloured, exhibiting the origin of the cerebral nerves. It revolves upon an axis, admirably calculated for demonstration to a large class, at a distance from the demonstrator.—Gentlemen desirous of securing one of these, are requested to forward their orders immediately. Price 40 dollars, without the arteries, and with them, 50 dollars.
School-street, Boston. H. WILLIAMS.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER :

Published weekly, at two dollars a year. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

AGENTS FOR THE MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

Enos Hoyt, Esq. P. M. Northfield, N. H.
Dr Frederick B. Page, Portland, Me.
Dr Jeremiah Williams, Warren, R. I.
Dr Elisha D. Payne, Freedom, Baltimore Co. Md.
Dr John W. Barkwell, Shine's Store, Twiggs, Co. Geo.
Dr Robert Carr Lane, Mobile, Alabama.

We have forwarded proposals to gentlemen in most of the large towns in different parts of the union; when answers are received, their names will be inserted.

* See a similar case in a negro in the Duke de la Rochefoucault Diancourt's Travels through the United States, Vol. III. p. 262.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1824.

No. 24.

OBSERVATIONS.

ADVANTAGES OF HOSPITAL PRACTICE.

By ANDREW DUNCAN, JUN. M. D. F. R. S. E.

The primary object of hospitals is undoubtedly the restoration to health of the patients admitted, and, as necessarily connected with this, the practitioner acquires great personal experience, and the pupils, (if there be any,) much valuable instruction. With these beneficial results many hospital practitioners rest satisfied, and altogether neglect another view of the subject, which, in my opinion, is scarcely less important, and is more calculated to indemnify the public for their liberality in supporting these charitable institutions, by tending to improve their economical management, and by collecting and accumulating a store of professional information on the history of disease, which cannot be acquired in the most extensive private practice.

There are two modes commonly employed for preserving a record of the occurrences in hospital practice; the one consists in keeping a detailed journal of the cases, and the other in entering certain leading particulars into a tabular scheme. The former is indispensable, or at least ought never to be dispensed with; and to this practice we owe the valuable clinical observations of Dr F. Home, and of Dr Hamilton. The latter is less constantly practised: but I consider it as scarcely less important. It is true, that if the detailed daily reports be kept regularly and fully, it is possible, by great attention, to extract from them such a tabular view of the principal circumstances as I am recommending; but by experience I know that an infinite deal of labour would be saved to the practitioner, if he were to make the entries when the circumstances occurred, and while the patients were still in the wards, and accessible for the purpose of further examination, which is often suggested by reviewing the facts resulting from these tabular records. Those practitioners only who are in the habit of doing this, are fully capable of appreciating its value, in enabling them to draw general conclusions from their own practice; for, when they revise their tables, they are often astonished how very different the result turns out, from what they expected from the vague recollection of what they themselves had done and seen.

Nor is the trouble of keeping such tabular records so great as might be supposed. It requires only system and regularity; and when we see how easily it is done in the military hospitals, we cannot help regretting that it is not also introduced generally into civil hospitals. If the practitioner himself has not time to fill up the columns of the prescribed table, it would be very little additional trouble to his clerk, or, if the time of this assistant would not easily permit him, the duty would be very gladly undertaken by another of the hospital pupils.

It is however in a different point of view that I am now chiefly considering hospital reports,—I mean as calculated to give information to the profession and to the public, derived from multiplied experience, in a very condensed and intel-

ligible form. The schemes of the report may be various, according to the object in view. To the profession they may be calculated to illustrate particular points in the history of the causes or phenomena of diseases, or the effects of particular modes of practice; while the public at large expect to obtain from them information on some circumstances highly interesting to the community, which can be derived from no other source.

The first point of information to be expected from hospitals is in regard to the state of health in the places where they are situated. Some of these institutions, however, it appears, publish no report, and some, it is said, even keep no records. Others content themselves by publishing periodically the numbers of the patients admitted, of the deaths, cures, &c. Such a statement will furnish the means of ascertaining the rate of mortality, which may be used for instituting a comparison either with other years or periods in the same hospital, and with the rate of mortality in other hospitals. Without farther information, however, these data will be apt to lead to very erroneous conclusions, and many circumstances must be taken into account before we can establish from the smaller or greater rate of mortality in hospitals, that they are better or worse conducted, or that their medical attendants are more or less skilful. Nay, some, as Burserius and Joseph Frank, have maintained the opposite doctrine; and although it may at first appear paradoxical that the rate of mortality should rise with the improvement of management and increase of skill, yet experience in some hospitals and places warrants the conclusion in a certain respect. The mortality in the Hotel Dieu of Paris, rose uniformly as ameliorations in its management proceeded, after the anarchy of the revolution had ceased, and philanthropic minds again attended to the miseries of the poor; and in London, it is said, the mortality is highest in the best conducted hospitals. The solution of the paradox is easy. As hospitals are every where limited in their extent and funds, it is obvious that they are best managed when they do the greatest good their means can exact; and this important object is attained by a proper selection of cases to be admitted, and by dismissing them as soon as they ought to give place to other sufferers. The general rule for the admission of cases is to prefer the most severe of those which admit of cure or relief by medical treatment; and this is exactly the description of cases in which the mortality is highest. Incurable cases are fitter for a poor-house than a medical hospital; and hence it is a rule in many of the latter, not to admit phthisical patients. When admitted, they increase the rate of mortality, but rather tend to diminish the absolute number of deaths, as they often linger for a great length of time, and thus lessen the number of patients received. Slight cases, unattended with danger, are generally unfit for hospital treatment, as they occupy beds which might be better employed. For these reasons, a high mortality may depend upon a proper selection of severe and

dangerous cases, as well as upon improper management and unskilful treatment.

(To be continued.)

EXERCISE.

Exercise strengthens the solids, and promotes the circulation of the fluids beyond any thing else within the compass of nature. Weakness of the nerves, and obstruction of the glands, never fail to accompany a life that is passed in inactivity. What dreadful effects proceed from these two causes, it would be tedious to enumerate. There are very few diseases incident to mankind which inactivity may not produce; and where it has once fixed its residence, it is extremely difficult to expel. It is not only of itself a plentiful source of disease, but, when become habitual, is generally attended with watchfulness, which, likewise, has a pernicious effect on the health.

BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS PATIENTS.

When your professional aid is solicited, no private misunderstanding should deter you from granting it. No imaginary slight should be made the pretext even of a moment's hesitation; for while you pause to settle a trifling punctilio, the destroyer may complete his work. If you know you have been injured, prove in the hour of danger that you deserved better treatment; if the patient have seemed regardless of your feelings, show yourselves mindful of his safety. True manliness would scorn to resent an offence on a prostrate enemy, and heaven-born charity invites to the noble satisfaction, of rewarding evil with good.

When you arrive at the scene of affliction, indulge not a sickly sensibility, but evince, by your tender deportment, that familiarity with human anguish has not blunted the sympathies of your nature. Avoid all appearance of bustle and hurry, and endeavour under the most imperious circumstances, to be calm, collected, and deliberate. Once determined on your course, act decisively; remembering all humanity can effect, depends on you. Be not offended at the embarrassments, the anxious solicitude, or even the unreasonable fears of the patient or his friends, may occasion. Both may seem to forget the deference they owe, and evince a disposition to interfere with your plans: but you should not resent at that moment, their well meant, though ill judged suggestions. Neither indulge in angry invective, nor abandon your patient. Stand firm to your purpose while circumstances urge. When danger is over and alarm has subsided, you will generally receive the grateful acknowledgements of those, whose disquietude betrayed them into opposition. Even when the event is unpropitious, you will find satisfaction in having exercised forbearance.

When your opinion of a case is requested, do not give an undue importance to your services, and create unnecessary alarm, by magnifying the danger, nor fall into the opposite error of inducing a false security.

Nor are you ever to create entire despondence; your exertions should continue to the

last moment, and a state of absolute despair might altogether prevent a compliance with your orders, or paralyze the efforts of those on whom their execution depended. Though the faint rays of hope may be permitted to beam on the darkest prospect, they should not be lighted into expectation. Deceive not a dying man, lest his last accent declare his disappointment, and the cold breath of dissolution be spent in accusations which your own wounded conscience must acknowledge just.

To the interrogatories of friends you should give as plain and satisfactory answers as possible. You cannot expect your explanations to be well understood by the mass of people, even when you employ the most common language; much less when they are conveyed in technical and high sounding words, with which they are as little acquainted as with an unknown tongue.

When a consultation is requested, show a ready compliance. If you think it necessary for the safety of the patient or your own satisfaction, make the proposition yourself. If the alarm of friends urges them to ask it before you think circumstances require, be not displeased at the appearance of distrust, but remember their fears suggest what their cooler judgment would not dictate.

If, happily, you possess religion, neglect no suitable opportunity of urging its importance, or applying its truths; and when its solace is desired, be ready to present it. You may then adapt your conversation to the condition of your patient, prevent an interruption of your curative efforts, and contribute to wipe off the foul, and, I would fain hope, unjust charge of infidelity, so generally attached to our profession. But if you are unqualified for this divine service, do not object to the visits of the pious. The frigid rules of human philosophy may teach us to bear with sullen fortitude the common ills of life, or meet with heartless submission the irrevocable sentence—"dust to dust," but it is only for the sublime precepts of Christianity to inculcate holy resignation. The hallowed light of religion can alone brighten the gloomy prospect of the dark valley of death, and its cheering promises are the choicest opiate to sooth the last agony. By its sweet influence, the painful hesitation of uncertainty, and trembling apprehension of alarm, are changed into joyous expectation. Faith points to bliss beyond the grave, and the glad-some hosanna is the last sound sent back to earth, as the heaven bound traveller embarks on the wide ocean of eternity. Then do not despise the advocates of a meek and humble Saviour, but permit them to unfold his glorious plan. Not that you should allow every gossiping enthusiast to harass the already troubled mind of your patient. Commit him to the care of enlightened, judicious piety—to one who, while he probes the depraved heart, and opens it to a sense of its unworthiness, has the balm of christian consolation to offer; and who, while he warns of the danger of the dark abyss, can direct to the region of celestial beatitude.

Finally, in all your intercourse with the sick, be mild, forbearing, attentive and affable; equally avoiding to excite fear by austere reserve, or create disgust by rude familiarity. Be not content with the mere formality of prescribing, but when necessary be the friend, the comforter, and the nurse of your patient. If he be a stran-

ger in a strange land, perform every kind office in your power. Remember he may have known the anxious care of parents, and the soothing tenderness of friends; and now, while in painful separation the hearts of many are yearning after him, neglect may sink like a dagger in his breast.—The remembrance of past attention may but aggravate the sting of present indifference, and grief and despair finish what disease essayed.

PHRENOLOGY.

LETTER FROM AN OBSERVER OF NATURE,
To the Editor of the Edinburgh Phrenological Journal.

SIR—Living in an obscure corner of Fifeshire, with little opportunity of knowing what is going on in the literary world, a friend handed in, for an evening's amusement, a number of your Phrenological Journal. My name can add no weight to my observations, of course can be of very little consequence in this instance, but may be given in a future communication, if such observations are considered illustrative of truth.

In April 1819, I had occasion to be in the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire, and having an hour to spare before dinner, I took a glance over my memorandums, and found that an early and very intimate friend of my father's lived near the village of ———, and ascertaining the distance, I resolved to walk that length after dinner to call on him. On going into the clachan, I asked the first intelligent face I met, where Mr ——— lived. As there was more than ordinary shrewdness in the lineaments of my informant's physiognomy, I begged him to accompany me to the best public-house in the place, until I found a boy to go for Mr ———. He shewed me the public house, and then, as I supposed, from the time he was absent, had gone for the gentleman himself, which was so far fortunate, as this brought me in contact with the landlord, who, after poking the fire, and making the usual routine of remarks on the weather, was desired to bring a little of his best ———, when I asked him to sit down and give a stranger his news.—He had a peculiar expression of countenance, and, on uncovering, showed a head perfectly bald and of uncommon formation. I begged he would change seats with me, on pretence of the light being offensive to my eyes, which threw the glare with fine effect over the surface of his bald pate. I drew his attention, first to the antique frame of a mirror, placed immediately over the fire-place, and had every minutiae of its history detailed; then to the departure of the Prodigal Son, on the one side, and next to the Fatted Calf on the other, till I had seen the head in all its bearings. To feel was unnecessary. Having made up my mind regarding his most prominent propensities, I waited the arrival of my expected friend.

When he and the individual first mentioned came in, I told them whose son I was. Having never seen either of the parties before, both claimed school acquaintance of my father, and as there appeared a shade of familiarity between my new friends, I begged them to sit down. The landlord withdrew, when my premier acquaintance of the face *sagess* made an apology for leaving me so long; but remarked, the landlord's stories would find me amusement. I told them I had been very much entertained and amused with the landlord, who I conceived to be a man of very peculiar habits and disposition. I then

described his general and strongest propensities; his deficiency in the finer feelings; his extreme selfishness; his passionate irritability and savage ferocity of countenance when in anger; and even when his immediate profit induced him to act the part of benevolence, his demeanour was so awkwardly constrained and reluctant, as to satisfy me that benevolent actions were not the natural feelings of his mind.

Mr ——— expressed his astonishment at my intimate acquaintance with the landlord, and wondered I had never called on him before, and made his house my home, as I must have been often in the neighbourhood, and in company with the landlord to know him so well. I assured them I had never seen him before to my knowledge, that I never was in the place but once, and that only passing rapidly through it. It is impossible to describe their astonishment: their looks at one another would have befitted the pencil of Hogarth or Tim Bobbin. At last, one remarked that "I might be very thankful I had not lived in the days of *Beatty Laing*, or I might have adorned a pile or fat tar barrel."

To satisfy them of my having never seen the landlord, I begged them to call him. Mr ——— did so, and asked him why he did not inform them that this was a most intimate acquaintance of his own. "An intimate acquaintance of mine!" he exclaimed in suspicion; "it's impossible. I never saw the gentleman before in my life—not I."

AN OBSERVER OF NATURE.

REVIEW.

J. CLARKE ON THE DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

We have selected this book for our examination, in order to ask the attention of our readers to the valuable practical information it contains, and the highly important subject to which the talents and researches of Dr Clarke have been devoted. The diseases of children are usually entrusted to the care of those who are not considered adequate to treat the disorders of riper years. Yet it would be more wise if this order were reversed. Adults can give verbal accounts of those feelings, which cannot be discovered in infants, but by the eye of a discriminating practitioner; and mistakes will be but uncomfortable to an adult, which would prove fatal in more tender years. The melancholy consequences of this dangerous custom, excited the benevolent feelings of our author, and gave rise to his excellent treatise.

On investigating the bills of mortality in London, it appeared that one quarter of all the deaths were of children under two years of age. The causes of such mortality among those to whom the nation looks for its support and its strength at a future day, had become an interesting inquiry as related to medicine and politics. Among these the most active is the custom of exposing infants to the damp and cold air, which takes its origin in the mistaken notion that such exposure hardens their constitution and renders mature life more healthy and robust. But so far from strengthening the constitution, it acts as an exciting cause of many diseases to which it was previously disposed; and the increased mortality which exists among poor children who are not sheltered from the variety of seasons, over the more comfortable part of the community, is a sufficient proof of its deleterious influence. Another very powerful agent in producing this mortality, is the habit of submitting lying-in women to the care of persons of their own sex. These midwives, as we remarked, were

trusted to cure the diseases of the young offspring they had introduced to the world, and thus old women's opiates and antimonial emetics were the only medicines known to the nurse.

The habit of giving children animal food at too early a period, has acted as a powerful agent in assisting the other two causes which have been mentioned.—This practice has been applauded by medical men as affording the most nutritious diet;—but the absurdity of this position is seen in the economy of nature. The leech takes its nourishment from the blood of other animals, and is therefore destitute of a heart or intestinal canal, as the operation of these viscera has already been performed by its prey. The lobster has no teeth except one cuspidatus and two molares, which are placed at the orifice of the stomach, as that situation is best adapted to the food that supports him. The stomach of carnivorous animals cannot perform the necessary operation on vegetables, and they are furnished with a full set of teeth, which are requisite to prepare their food to be received by the digestive organs; while on the other hand the teeth of pecora are destitute of cuspidati, these being unnecessary to the proper preparation of their nourishment. The stomach of the infant is fitted to digest nothing but liquids, until the appearance of teeth indicates a change in the organization of the digestive functions, and marks the period at which animal food may be innocently admitted into the stomach of the child. Of all liquids the milk of the mother is the most nutritious and healthy; and any other diet previous to the state of dentition, acts as an exciting cause of many diseases, and of many deaths. The submission of infants to the breast of another, has originated in the higher circles of life, where a love of ease has prompted a perversion of natural affection; and so great is the power of example, when proceeding from such a source, that this disgusting practice has become general, and has long been in England almost universal.

*"What numbers thus whom length of years had blest,
Untimely fall,—by early fate oppress!
Life's cheerful day ere yet enjoy'd, resign'd,
—This dread abuse depopulates mankind."*

It seems indeed most strange that any one who possesses the feelings every mother is supposed to possess, should thus easily relinquish one of the most important of her natural and moral duties; and yet it almost ceases to astonish us when we think of the story of certain courtiers, who sat down with great caution to imitate the disease of their sovereign, who was afflicted with hemorrhoids, that they too might be supposed to labour under the same disease, in compliment to their master.—If disease prevent the mother from nursing her offspring, asses' milk is better than any other,—and if this cannot be obtained, cow's milk skimmed, with two thirds its measure of gruel, of pearl barley, rice, or arrow-root, will answer; or should this disagree with the infant, some farrinaceous decoction, with a little cream, will generally be a sufficient substitute till the mother's recovery.—Wine also given to infants is injurious, and toast water may be given in its stead. By improper diet many afflicting and mortal diseases are produced, and dentition aggravated.

About the time of dentition there is an unusual determination of blood to the head, which should be counteracted by attention to diet, keeping the bowels open, and the head cold; and hence one reason why the common use of flannel caps for children is highly detrimental, and often the cause of convulsions and of death. By keeping the head cool, and, in cutting the

teeth, dividing the membrane which covers them, inflammation will never rise to a dangerous height.

Many deaths have been occasioned by attempting a rapid cure of cutaneous diseases without proper evacuations—a practice which is, in all cases, hazardous, producing inflammation of the brain, and consequent hydrocephalus.

Infants are often destroyed by convulsions, in all of which Dr Clarke believes the brain to be organically affected, either directly or indirectly. The first is caused by keeping the head warm, and the second by improper diet. When this disease has distorted the features and the form of an infant, copious evacuations are absolutely necessary, of which calomel, succeeded by senna and manna, is most effectual. These should be followed by the use of the warm bath, which determines the circulation to the surface. Blood should be taken in large quantities, by cupping or by opening some large vein. The lower extremities and the back should be blistered, an ice cap applied to the head, and cold water thrown into the face, which in all cases during a paroxysm is singularly effectual. The purple colour of the patient is caused by a spasm of the muscles of respiration, which retards the passage of the blood through the lungs, and may be relieved by inhaling ammoniacal air. But notwithstanding every effort, this terrible disease often deprives the offspring of its life, and the mother of her dearest hopes.

The large size of the head and its vessels in infancy, and the quantity of blood necessary to support ossification, require a large proportion of the blood to be devoted to this part of the system, and render children more subject to inflammation of the brain than adults; and the cause of its more frequent mortality in the former may be found in the mildness of its early symptoms,—a circumstance which veils the approaching evil from the parent and physician. By that strict attention which should ever be paid to the helpless years of our children, it may easily be discovered that unusual stupidity, gaping in the morning and at noon, as well as in the evening, clenching of the fist, frowns and twitchings, are occasioned by some morbid affection, and require the aid of medicine. Simple fever never exists in children, and its symptoms indicate inflammation of the brain. The best characteristic however of this disease, is the excessive acuteness of the senses, particularly of vision, which was observed so long ago as Aretæus, as a marked diagnostic symptom at an early stage of the complaint. He called this state of the eye in which the pupil is contracted, Mydriasis, and the expansion of the pupil which marks the later stage of the disease, he denominated Platycoria. When the senses have continued for some time in this state of high irritability, a fit of screaming comes on, and immediately all the sensibilities are blunted, the pulse becomes less frequent, and life like a fluctuation seems to mingle with its end. The usual remedies for inflammation, with blisters to the back and cold applications to the head, sometimes arrest the progress of this formidable disease. It is also asserted by some eminent physicians that mercurial applications, both external and internal, are very powerful remedies.

Epilepsy is often the mortal disease of children, and the most efficient remedies are those for the cure of convulsions, and repeated emetics of a solution of sulphate of zinc with ipecacuanha.

Thus if the clothing and diet of children be such as are suited to the climate in which they live, many distresses and many deaths may be prevented, the fond hopes of many an anxious mother raised into reality,

her careful solicitude relieved, and the nation furnished with additional inhabitants, who will contribute to its support, its strength and its glory.

REPORTS.

A COMMON CASE.

On the morning of the 6th inst. a number of young men and boys of the town of Harpersfield, (Del.) engaged in the dangerous and foolish practice of "waking up officers." In the course of the fray, Philo Knapp, a young man of 17 or 18 years of age, was shot a few inches below the joint of the thigh. A physician was immediately called; the wound was dressed, and his friends entertained fond hopes of his recovery. But, alas! the ignorance of Quacks. The boy continued to grow worse until Friday morning, when a physician of skill and science passing, was called in. He examined the state of the wound, and gave it as his opinion, the only means of saving the boy's life, was the amputation of his leg. The quack scoffed at the idea of amputation, and said you might as well cut his throat, &c. Ignorance and folly in this case, as in many others, triumphed over knowledge and wisdom, and the prescriptions of this empyric were followed. On Sabbath morning the boy died.—His leg was swollen as large as a common sized man's body. It was opened by the physician who advised the amputation; a spoonful of powder was taken from the wound, and it was found the wad had entered, struck the bone, glanced and passed along the bone about four inches.

From this distressing occurrence, let all learn to beware of trusting their lives in the hands of illiterate and boisterous quacks. They ought to be wholly discountenanced, and their vain and foolish pretensions published in every house in the country.

FUMIGATION IN PSORIASIS.

By MR. BLACKETT.

Mr J. G., enjoying a tolerable state of health in other respects, had been afflicted, for the last seven years, with disease of the skin, partaking of the nature of psoriasis; it was a source of the greatest inconvenience to him, particularly when warm from exercise, or when in bed. The itching at those times was next to insufferable. On leaving bed in the morning, the sheets would usually contain as much scaly desquamation as would fill a plate. The disease was much aggravated in the spring of the year, and still more so in the autumn; at those times it put on the appearance of impetigo, attended with a discharge from the sore or abraded cuticle. Exertion or flexure of the body frequently occasioned the skin to crack into long fissures, giving rise to a profuse ichorous discharge; which, if not carefully absorbed with soft rags, was followed with excoriation wherever it was allowed to remain.

It was a little after the autumnal aggravation of symptoms, and when in the state above described, that, by my advice, he tried the sulphurous fumigation every other day. The impetiginous character and soreness was rapidly subdued; the scales, at the same time, detaching themselves in abundance, and new ones forming, but of a thinner description, until they altogether ceased to be generated. The skin remained

preternaturally red for some time; but this gradually wore off. The whole of the surface of the body is now perfectly soft, natural, and perspirable, which it had never used to be. His complexion, from being of a muddy colour, has become clear, and his cheeks florid. He took, in the whole, twenty-seven baths, conjointly with the following internal remedy:—

R Sulphuris Præcip. 3ss.

Potasse Supertartar. 3j.

Pulv. Jalapii, 3ss.

Misce bene, et distribue in chartulat xvij.

Capiat unam bis in die ex melle.

In addition to this powder, at the suggestion of Mr Green, he took half a pint of tar water twice a day.

It would be an irksome task to enumerate the variety of medicines that this gentleman had taken for the removal of his disease; and many of them were persevered in for a long time, but without any apparent good effect. He had likewise spent several months at Bath and Harrogate, but without any permanent benefit: the waters of the latter place, however, seemed to have been of rather more service to him than those of the former.

FATAL RELAPSE IN SCARLET FEVER,

IN CONSEQUENCE OF EATING TWO RAW APPLES.

A very lively boy was treated for an exceedingly severe attack of scarlet fever. He speedily became convalescent under the use of full purgatives; and he continued in an excellent state for ten days, when his father gave him two raw apples, which he eat. The fever returned immediately, and put on the form of typhus. Purgatives were given every day; but five or six days passed over before the apple was entirely expelled, and every piece was found so perfectly undigested, that it appeared just as when first eaten.

Some amendment took place; but after the exhibition of a very little broth, the symptoms were again lighted up, and in a fortnight from eating the apples, the child died.

This is not a solitary case. Dr Armstrong says that he has seen many cases of relapse in fever, and some of death from eating apples, or the pulp of oranges, or very often from broth.

The treatment of convalescence after fever requires much care and some skill. At one of the Irish hospitals, the physicians make it a rule to let the patients ask for food for a whole week before they indulge them with it.

INTELLIGENCE.

CHOLERA MORBUS IN INDIA.—M. Moreau de Joanes states, that from the year 1817 to 1823, this disease has travelled from the Molucca Islands to the coast of Syria, and from the mouth of the Wolga to the Isle of France:—the extreme points of its ravages being 1340 leagues asunder north and south, and 1900 leagues from east to west. He considers it an entirely distinct disease from the cholera morbus of western countries;—a pestilential malady, travelling from place to place, and propagated from person to person. It operates on all ages and conditions, in all seasons, in elevated as well as low situations, under the influence of different climates and different diets. Three hundred and

fifty one natives of India, died of the cholera morbus in Calcutta, in February.

MINERALOGY.—Col. George Gibbs, of Sunswick, Long Island, with his accustomed liberality, has presented to the Cabinet of the Lyceum at N. Y. an elegant suite of Siberian minerals, of great variety and value.

OSSIFICATIONS OF THE ARACHNOID MEMBRANE.—M. M. Culleria and Maingault relate the case of a maniac, in whose brain several scrofulous cysts and abscesses were found, as well as many ossifications of the arachnoid membrane. The patient had complained during life of a very disagreeable smell.

RE-UNION.—Mr Marley, of Vigo Lane, relates a case of re-union of the end of the finger trapped off by a stone. The end of the finger had been separated for twenty minutes before it was re-applied to the stump.

SINGULAR PHENOMENON.—Dr Smith, an army medical officer, relates, that a soldier had one of his eyes green and the other grey. He found, on inquiry, that they were formerly of the same colour; but that about three months after one eye had been much injured by the blow of a rope, it became of a greenish colour; and that gradually the colour had afterwards changed to "a light grass green." There is, it seems, still, however, a slight appearance of disease about the pupil.

INFANT WITH TWO HEADS.—Mr Jackson, of Bolton, in Lancashire, describes a full grown child, born alive in August, 1820, with two heads. One head breathed for forty minutes; the other did not breathe at all. The child could move all its limbs, and it opened and shut the eyes of both heads. The heart palpitated for some time after it ceased to breathe. It was a male child, and weighed 8lbs. 15oz. 6drs.

YELLOW FEVER.—At the last dates the yellow fever was stated to rage with unabated malignity in New Orleans. Seven physicians had fallen victims to it. Seventeen deaths of this fever occurred in Charleston, in the week ending the 9th instant. On the 11th instant there was only one new case.

SMALL-POX AT GREENFIELD.—A case of this disease has recently appeared at Greenfield, Mass. and excited considerable alarm. By the active measures adopted by the Physicians of that place, there is reason to hope it will not be communicated.

SIR ASTLEY COOPER.—By late accounts from London this distinguished Surgeon had met with an accident to his knee, which confined him to the sofa, and prevented his attendance on his patients. It was thought the injury would be temporary.

GIANT.—Among the curiosities exhibited at the fair of St Lazare, at Marseilles, the Etoile mentions a giant named Martin Ruboga, who is 7 feet 2 inches in height, with fine proportioned chest, hands and thighs. His strength it appears is prodigious, for he breaks in pieces a marble slab, with facility, by a single blow of his fist. He is an Italian by birth, and a descendant of Gigli, whom Buffon has honoured with particular notice in his work on Natural History.

QUACKERY AND FORGERY.—A man, styling himself Dr Scoby, has been tried in New-Hampshire for altering a promissory note from nine to ninety dollars. The note was given by a poor man, in consideration of having been cured, by this quack, of *witchcraft*.

THANK YOU MR EDITOR.—The following is from a Carlow (Ireland) paper:—

A Caution to the Public.—We caution the inhabitants of this town how they expose themselves to any sort of contact with persons labouring under contagious distempers—such as fevers, plagues, and consumptions,—and that they carefully avoid taking colds, rheumatisms, catarrhs, gouts, headaches, bellyachs, and backachs, as well as all sorts of acute and chronic diseases which may require the attendance of a physician,—there being now no less than twelve doctors, surgeons, men midwives, and apothecaries, practising in the small town of Carlow.

CAMPHOR.—Dr Gobel gives the analysis of this substance as follows:—Carbon, 74,67
Hydrogen, 11,24
Oxygen, 14,09
100,00

INFLUENCE OF DIET.—"Do you know what makes my voice so melodious?" said a celebrated vocal performer, of *awkward manners*, to Charles Bannister.—"No," replied the other. "Why, then, I'll tell you; when I was but 15, I swallowed, by accident, some train oil." "I don't think," rejoined Bannister, "it would have done you any harm if at the same time you had swallowed a dancing master."

SPIRIT OF THE DEAD.—A visitor to Surgeon's Hall, lately remarked, when shown a number of dwarfs, monsters, &c. preserved in alcohol and other preparations,—"Well, I never thought that the *dead* could be seen in such spirits."

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

Ending October 21st; from the Health-Office Returns.

October 15th.—Almira Hooper Hale, 16 mo. 16th.—Elizabeth G. Furbur, 49. 17th.—Joseph C. Dorr, 7 mo.; — Cole; William H. Moore, 10 mo.; Clarissa Nute, 6 mo.; Benjamin Savory, 18 mo.; — Pierce; Susan Mitchell, 6 days; Margaret Pierce, 48; Mary Mopan; Mary Goss; Margaret O'Neil, 22. 18th.—Edward McQuire, 9; Mary Ann Cutler, 6 weeks. 19th.—Elizabeth Knott, 25. 20th.—Tabitha Newcomb, 58; Catharine Delany, 29; Lewis Currant, 6 mo. 21st.—Lydia Williams, 89; Sarah Lillie, 63; Eliza Burbank; — Cole; Nancy Neal, 5 mo. 22d.—Edmund H. Peters, 6 mo.; Melina Hepzi White, 8. 23d.—Lewis Groves, 7 mo.; — Carter; Mary Ann Leitzen; William Riley, 7 weeks; — Smith.

Hydrocephalus, 1—*Old Age*, 1—*Infantile*, 2—*Canker*, 2—*Stillborn*, 5—*Dropsy in the Head*, 1—*Consumption*, 4—*Fits*, 3—*Mortification*, 1—*Lung Fever*, 1—*Lethargy*, 1—*Croup*, 2—*Burn*, 1.

DIED.—In Hamburg, S. C. Dr Epaphras S. Trowbridge, aged 23, formerly of Mansfield, R. I.—In New Orleans, Dr Dwyer, and Dr E. L. Lee.—In Calvert Co. Virg. Dr William B. Williams.—In Newcastle, Dr McCallmont.—In Baltimore, Dr John Owen.—At Thompson's Island, Dr John D. Armstrong, Surgeon in the United States' Navy.—In Bethsaida, Geo. Dr Richardson.—Dr S. H. Littlejohn, U. S. A.—In Laurel, Del. Dr Derickson.

THE Subscriber is engaged in making a Magnified Brain, from four to five feet round, in plaster and wax, minutely accurate, and naturally coloured, exhibiting the origin of the *cerebral nerves*. It revolves upon an axis, admirably calculated for demonstration to a large class, at a distance from the demonstrator.—Gentlemen desirous of securing one of these, are requested to forward their orders immediately. Price 40 dollars, without the arteries, and with them, 50 dollars.

School-street, Boston.

H. WILLIAMS.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER :

Published weekly, at two dollars a year. All communications must be **POST-PAID**, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

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Dr Jeremiah Williams, Warren, R. I.
Dr Elisha D. Payne, Freedom, Baltimore Co. Md.
Dr John W. Barkwell, Shine's Store, Twiggs, Co. Geo.
Dr Robert Carr Lane, Mobile, Alabama.
Dr Lemuel C. Paine, Esq. P. M. West Galway Church, Montgomery Co. N. Y.

We have forwarded proposals to gentlemen in most of the large towns in different parts of the union; when answers are received, their names will be inserted.

PRINTING, IN ALL ITS BRANCHES, NEATLY EXECUTED AT THIS OFFICE.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE; SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1824.

No. 25.

OBSERVATIONS.

ADVANTAGES OF HOSPITAL PRACTICE.

(Concluded from page 98.)

The records of public hospitals are also expected to give information concerning the frequency or rarity, increase or decrease, of the several diseases usually admitted; and the reports of different hospitals and dispensaries present us with lists of these diseases, and the number of patients affected with each. To perform this part of the physician's duty judiciously is attended with great difficulty, not only on account of the imperfections of our nosological systems, but on account of the complication and indeterminate nature of deviations from health, so that every practitioner who has attempted it, knows well the difficulty, or rather the impossibility, of referring some cases, even although severe, to any recognized species of disease. Still, however, a register of diseases is of the greatest utility in giving information concerning the prevalence of the most important affections, especially those of an epidemic nature. It would be a great advantage, if some general classification could be adopted for all hospitals, and adhered to in all time to come, even although it were not the best possible.—Were this the case, it should also be used as the basis of bills of mortality, and then we would be possessed of materials for determining the rise, height, and decline of each disease, and the effect of general causes upon their production and modification. Such a view is also necessary to enable us to know the share which each disease has in the mortality of the human race, at different times, and in different countries. The disease of each patient should be registered at the period of dismissal, and not at admission, for its nature can often be only determined by its progress. If a patient should labour under two distinct diseases not depending upon each other, both should be noted, more especially if, after being cured of his original complaint, or while in hospital, he should be attacked by a new disease,—a contagious fever, for example, or hospital gangrene.

In the general register the sex and age of each patient should be marked, as well as the profession and the alleged cause of the affection. Each of these particulars throws much light upon the predisposing and exciting causes of diseases, and may enable us to take measures to counteract them.

Another circumstance, seldom attended to, but occasionally of great importance, especially during epidemic diseases, is to mark down the exact place, and even house, where the patient resided when he was first affected with the disease, or before he came into the hospital. By this means we shall be sometimes able to trace the introduction of contagious diseases, their progress from one part of a town or country to another, and the limitation of others to particular districts.

It is, lastly, of great importance, in an economical, as well as a medical point of view, to re-

gister the number of days each patient remains in the hospital. Connected with the average rate of mortality, it furnishes a criterion for estimating the general success of the treatment; and it is almost indispensable to enable the managers and public to judge of the zeal and activity of the medical officers in not permitting the hospital to be abused by the lazy and worthless, and to compare the amount of benefit derived by society in proportion to the expenditure.

CHARGES OF PHYSICIANS.

The appreciation of services, though it may seem to be an individual concern, has a great influence on the general character of the profession. If our time and attention must be occupied in relieving affliction, those who receive the benefits of our labours should acknowledge our claim to a suitable reward. But as we practise a liberal profession, we should not value our service by measure, nor number our visits as the merchant does his wares, and expect a like return from all. Our charities should be great and frequent; and, in order to enable us to exercise them, our compensation should be proportionably liberal. Not that we should always expect a large fee, for there are many can only afford a moderate one; and if they can well spare this we are not to reject it. But we should fix for our common guidance the rates of charges; and when we make any deduction, let it be understood that it is in consideration of the patient's finances, and if these are very low, let our services be entirely gratuitous. Take not a pittance from the hard earnings of the poor. What if by persevering industry and a long course of self-denial, he may have treasured up a mite for us? Then is he more worthy our benevolence, and we should never allow his noble honesty to deprive him of the comforts, or perhaps the necessities of life.

If we desire the respect and confidence of our patients, we must not extort money from them by invention. Some from undue love of gain contrive to make those who ask their professional aid a double source of profit. Not content with a just compensation, they persuade, and sometimes force, (by employing private marks, and otherwise,) patients to purchase at an enormous price, medicines of their prescribing, either directly from themselves, or from some one with whom they have a secret understanding. Even where the afflicted are unable to afford a regular fee to their physician, and where he thinks it would be barefaced inhumanity to exact it, he sometimes has the cold barbarity to fix a high value on his prescriptions, and thus pinch from the hard hand of poverty the gain he would be thought to forego. It is not unusual to hear men of this cast accused of prescribing more largely and frequently than necessary; and, indeed, we must acknowledge there is at least a semblance of truth in the charge. It is perfectly correct for a physician to engage in any private concern that does not interfere with the proper discharge of his regular duties, or hazard the credit of his profession; but if he be

interested in the vending of medicine, he must not incur the imputation of being mercenary and unjust, by monopolizing the profits of his own prescriptions.

HUMAN FOSSIL.

Let any one figure to himself an irregular and horizontal fissure in a mass of silicious rock, and he will have in his mind an image of the kind of hollow in which the human fossil, (to which we lately alluded) was discovered. The objects which present themselves in this fissure are ranged in a horizontal line, interrupted by slight undulations. At one of the extremities of this line, the first thing that strikes you is a shape exactly that of a horse's head—a head which resting against a rock, has been crushed, so that while the right half has retained its proper form and dimensions, the left bulges out and jets over the preserved part. On both sides the places of the eyes are very evident; and in front the forelock, the forehead, and the frontstall of a horse, complete the design. The first impression is that it is the head of a horse roughly chiselled out, in alto relievo, to express the effect of a partial crushing. At the opposite extremity of the line, (as if to form a pendant,) is a mass of the size and shape of those blocks on which hair-dressers curl wigs. It appears to be the head of a tall man, but the place either of the ears, or of the eyes, or of the nasal cavities, or those of the mouth, &c. is quite undistinguishable. Between the two extremities of the lines are objects, very indistinct, but in the confusion of which may nevertheless make out something like a vertebral column, a fore-arm bent, a kind of square shape, like a human chest, &c. All these objects are exceedingly disfigured; but when viewed together, and at a little distance, they seem to establish a natural connexion between the two heads, that of the man and that of the horse, which constitute the first and second scene of this little tragedy. All the parts, with the exception of the arm, are composed of fine sand, and there are here and there thin sheets of a blackish substance, which are thought by some to be fragments of mourning crape.

All the parts of the adjoining rock, when struck by the hammer, return a clear and shrill sound. The parts of the fossil, struck by the same instrument, return a dull sound, as if from some hollow. Can a fine sand, washed by water, a highly attenuated silicious matter, have penetrated their organs, and taken their place, leaving nothing apparent but the exterior mould? On being examined by a very skilful chemist, the parts of the fossil appear to possess the principles of matter which has once been animated; while the parts of the neighbouring rock subjected to the same process, yield only the common elements of which minerals are composed. What is the conclusion to be drawn from these various circumstances? We will only observe that if these are the remains of a man and a horse, the presence of animal matter proves that the catastrophe by which they were unhappily overwhelmed by a mass of rock is not of very

remote antiquity. The fossil bones, which have been dug in great quantities out of the quarries from which Paris has been built, do not contain an atom of animal matter.

PLUM PUDDING.

This is one of the relics of barbarous cookery—a compilation of grossness, gastronomically unscientific, and pre-eminently unwholesome.—Sugar, dough, and fat, are its basis, and in such proportion, that its lighter ingredients have not power to redeem its crudity. No wonder John Bull is dyspeptic, hypochondriacal, and suicidal, when plum puddings and malt-liquor occupy his stomach so often. Boiled dough is the food of his youth—solid, stone-like dough—and when he grows up, he mollifies his mess with sugar and raisins; scarcely a day passes without a wedge of his favourite dish—plum pudding; and then he mopes and drinks his ale, until a sufficient quantity of *coccus Indicus*, or opium, or bangué—the narcotic portion of his beverage—nods him down to sleep. Yet John wonders why he suffers from indigestion!—*Med. Adviser*.

DISORDERS OF LITERARY MEN.—NO. XV.

6th. TRAVELLING. In concluding our series of numbers on the disorders of literary men, we shall offer a few remarks on travelling. In discussing this subject, it should be remembered that our scholars usually travel in Europe when their ill health will not allow them any enjoyment at home; and the voyage across the Atlantic is not the least important part of this excursion. The stomach is usually and thoroughly evacuated at the commencement of the voyage; & the change of air, particularly from a varying and adulterated, to a steady, pure, and bracing atmosphere, interrupts the progress of incipient disease, and introduces new trains of action. In addition to the tonic and salutary influence of sea air, the constant motion of the ship is to the passenger an uninterrupted exercise of every part of the body, and particularly of the limbs, by which he holds and supports himself in an upright posture. The wonderfully powerful effect of these causes, coming as they do after the stomach has been for several days relieved of its load of aliment, is strikingly evinced in the immense quantity of food which is craved, consumed and digested, by those who sail upon the deep.

When one quits too the soil with which the dreams of his ambition have ever been associated, and the friends and the people among whom he sought for honourable distinction, and gives himself wholly up to the pursuit of health in other and far distant climes, he involuntarily lays aside those books which no persuasion could induce him to relinquish whilst at home, and, from the steady labour of deep and unceasing thought, is unconsciously transported into the region of those airy nothings which amuse a man at sea. Hours are often passed, when on the ocean, in chasing a goat round the deck, making traps, kites, and toys, by those who would think themselves mad if caught in any occupation but grave study at home; and thus is the mind wonderfully relieved from those intense and laborious exertions which had so long preyed upon its strength and threatened its destruction. When the invalid traveller, then, first lands on a foreign shore, he finds his limbs more strong, and his intellectual faculties more fresh, than when he embarked, and should be a Phrenologist but see him at dinner, he would venture the credit of his system on the wonderful develop-

ment of his organ of *Destructiveness*. All these changes have occurred in consequence of the alteration produced, by the *tout-ensemble* of a sea voyage, in the determination of the blood—its tendency to the head which had well nigh ruined the powers of the brain, is effectually checked, and that equilibrium restored which we have asserted to be necessary to mental and bodily sanity and vigour.

The discrimination of our literary friends will teach them that it is only before structural disease has occurred, before the texture of the parts oppressed is absolutely destroyed, that all these benefits can be reasonably anticipated, and that the evil, when surmounted, would most readily recur, unless the tone of the cerebral mass, the strength of the digestive powers, the vigour of the limbs, and the equilibrium of the circulation, are rendered permanent by a continuation of the means by which they have been regained. Hence should the student not only commence travelling early, but continue it after he feels himself recovered. New fields of observation, new sources of amusement and instruction are continually presenting themselves, to interest his feelings, delight his imagination, and diversify his thoughts, every mile he travels in the old world, and his spirits are cheered and invigorated by the nature and the variety of the scenes by which he is constantly surrounded. How salutary as well as agreeable must be the thousand associations which, requiring no exertion to arouse or labour to retain, rise in easy and rapid succession in the mind of him who views with the eye of a scholar as well as of a stranger, the lofty summits of Ben-lomond and Ben-venue, which rise so majestically in the western borders of Scotland, or gazes in silent rapture on the calm bosom of Loch Katrine, as it reflects the soft rays of the setting sun. How many thoughts and emotions, which excite without fatiguing the mind, are hourly occurring to the student as he travels along the highly cultivated fields, or walks about the beautiful villages, or the immense and busy cities of England; inhales the invigorating atmosphere, and mingles in the unrivalled gaiety and splendor of the French metropolis; wanders among the Alps; lingers amid the relics of Roman magnificence, or beholds that portion of the earth which is most hallowed in the history of learning and of liberty, blasted by the barbarity of the unhallowed Turk!

It is not only the nature of these occupations, but their *variety*, which makes them salutary and invigorating to those who have suffered from too sedentary and monotonous a life. When the charm of novelty is gone, the scholar ceases to be excited, and is either led into investigations which will engage his attention too deeply, & into those trains of profound reflection which he ought to avoid, or else he will sigh too often for his native shores, and glide into a painful and enervating melancholy. The pleasure we derive from visiting a foreign country, is not so much from any thing we find there better or more capable of subserving the wants and promoting the comforts of life, as from the novelty every thing presents, and the opportunity and facility we enjoy of observing the peculiarities of different nations. The traveller may gaze with delight on the splendid scenes of European extravagance, but the eye of an American is soon dazzled by the glitter of royal gold, & turns from it with contempt; he may admire the beauty and richness of that polished country to which Nature and Art seem to have been rival benefactors, but let him be detained there after his curiosity is gratified, and he will tell you the finest prospect he enjoys is when he looks back to his native shores, and

imagines himself in the midst of those who have endeared to him the very soil on which they tread.—When therefore the charm of novelty is gone, the student may not only safely, but with advantage, return to his home to enjoy its surpassing pleasures, and to his studies to pursue them with more prudence and more benefit, though less exclusively than before.

Lastly, we would remark, that travelling is too commonly the resort of literary men, when it is too late to be of service to them;—it is a remedy, which, though in itself agreeable, is usually delayed, until, by the neglect of the precautions we have mentioned, the feverish brain has become too sick to be relieved, the digestive functions too much deranged to be regulated, the lungs permanently diseased, and the power of constitutional reaction irrecoverably lost. The disadvantages of travelling at this advanced period of disease, are as great and melancholy, as its benefits at an earlier stage are certain and permanent. When the strength and the hopes of the traveller alternately rise and fall as the sun-beam and the shade come over him, the unavoidable exposures to which he is subjected more than counteract any invigorating influence which change of climate, and scenes that are novel and agreeable, can exercise on his frame. He cannot enter with freedom into the society and amusements of one country, and when they become tedious, seek for new sources of enjoyment and instruction in another;—he must make his health the sole *business* of his life; his attention to the precise state of the atmosphere & to his own sensations, must preclude the unrestrained enjoyment by which alone the powers of the constitution are to be restored: thus feelings of sadness, and exposure and fatigue which his disease will not allow him to bear, add to, rather than alleviate his malady, and he soon finds that he left his much loved home too late—that he has left it, alas! forever.

Under these circumstances, and far from the bosom of affection, what avails all that Europe—all that the world can offer, to cheer the heart of the declining scholar, or soften the pillow on which he feels that he must soon sink in endless sleep. If every other argument should prove too weak to induce our literary friends to seek early, and under softer and more congenial skies, for a restoration of health when it seems to be departing from them, we cannot but hope that the reason we have here urged, will convince them of the danger of delay.—“It is a sad thing to feel that we must die away from our own home. Tell not the invalid who is yearning after his distant country, that the atmosphere is soft, that the gales are filled with balm, and the flowers are springing from the green earth;—he knows that the softest air to his heart, would be the air which hangs over his native land;—that more gratefully than all the gales of the south, would breathe the low whispers of anxious affection; that the very icicles clinging to his own caves, and the snow beating against his own windows, would be far more pleasant to his eyes, than the bloom and verdure which only more forcibly remind him, how far he is from that one spot which is dearer to him than the world beside. He may indeed find estimable friends, who will do all in their power to promote his comfort and assuage his pains; but they cannot supply the place of the long known and long loved; they cannot read, as in a book, the mute language of his face; they have not learned to wait upon his habits, and anticipate his wants, and he has not learned to communicate, without hesitation, all his wishes, impressions, and thoughts, to them. He feels that he is a stranger;

and a more desolate feeling than that could not visit his soul.—How much is expressed by that form of oriental benediction, *May you die among your kindred !*"

Thus have we given a plain unvarnished account of those circumstances in the ordinary life of the scholar, which must be regarded in order to insure sound health, long life, and the attainment of those objects which cannot be accomplished without a vigorous exercise of the intellectual powers. By addressing the understanding of our literary friends, and explaining to them the why and the wherefore, we have endeavoured to illustrate the several points hinted at in the general remarks with which these numbers commenced. By a review of them, it will be seen that temperance and exercise are the grand and most imposing of all those prophylactics which the nature of their pursuits renders indispensable to the preservation of health. *Natura paucis contenta est: et temperantia cum actione contra morbos prophylaxis.*—There are however other circumstances, which the peculiar habits of literary men raise into an importance which does not belong to them when applied to others. These also we have endeavoured to set forth, and in conclusion beg leave to remark, that all necessary precautions will be adopted with more facility, if for each there be allotted a time. *The twenty four hours should be divided into three equal parts. Eight hours should be given to sleep, eight to study, and the remaining eight should be occupied by exercise, amusement, meals, and those relaxations which are most proper to cheer and invigorate the corporeal and intellectual faculties.*

But whilst we recommend to the student regularity in all things, we must guard him against the error of becoming too much the slave of habit. The substances we take and the hours of our meals should be occasionally varied. An undeviating adherence to the same routine both becomes wearisome, and puts it out of our power ever to change without danger. Besides, as Rochefaucault observes, it is paying too great a tax even for health, when its preservation is made the business of our life. In this, then, as in other things, we must hold fast the golden mean, and keeping equally far from austerity and licentiousness, we shall secure to ourselves that comfort which is the sure consequence and the certain reward of well regulated habits.

NOVEMBER.

This is the month in which the inhabitants of Old England hang themselves, and those of New England feast on all their most delicious fruits, and inhale their mildest and most exhilarating atmosphere; and woe is unto the wight who does not avail himself of this season to throw off the remains of summer sickness, and prepare to resist that of the approaching winter.—There are, in October and November, none of those rapid changes in the temperature of different parts of the day, which are such fruitful sources of dysentery and fever. The tone of the stomach, which in September had been so much diminished by the heat of the preceding months as to render indulgence in the luxuries of the season dangerous, and even exercise in the open air critical, is now restored by the fresh breezes from the west, and the agreeable and uniform coolness of the atmosphere. The temptations which the season offers to gratify the whims of the appetite, are no avenues to disease, and the clear glory of the heavens invites to exercise and enjoyments, which may be liberally partaken with advantage rather than danger.

Of all parts of the year, none seems therefore so well suited to scenes of mirth and amusement as November, and as such, none is more generally improved. Families who have spent the summer in the country, now return to enjoy their home and their friends in the city; hundreds of happy swains are made still happier husbands; and the sounds of hilarity, and the pictures of health, meet us in every direction. Since then so many powerful attractions exist within doors as well as without, it becomes our duty to caution our friends against acquiring a habit of passing much of their time in warm rooms thus early in the season.

It is an undoubted fact, that those men live longest, who are the last to shut themselves up and put on additional clothing in the autumn, and the last to leave it off and expose themselves in the spring. The coldness of November is dry and bracing; it increases the warmth of the body by quickening the circulation, and thus renders an outer garment unnecessary, except in the evening, or on days that are unpleasant;—the coldness of the spring is damp and enervating; it depresses instead of cheering the spirits, renders the circulation languid, and extra clothing indispensable to comfort as well as to health.

In the winter, typhus fever is the most common complaint; its subjects are chiefly those whose habit is debilitated, or whose spirits are depressed; and we have suggested these ideas to our readers—not only with a view to their immediate benefit, but also by way of precaution, lest the time for recruiting and enjoying should be allowed to pass away unimproved, and the chill blasts of winter come and convert their houses into hospitals—their enervated frames to the victims of disease.

REPORT.

INDIGESTION,

WITH THE PRESCRIPTION OF THE LATE PROFESSOR GREGORY, OF EDINBURGH.

Scene—*Dr Gregory's Study. Enter Mr —,* a douce-looking Glasgow Merchant.*

Patient. Good morning, Dr Gregory; I'm just come into Edinburgh about some law business, and I tho't when I was here, at any rate I might just as weel tak your advice, Sir, anet my trouble.

Doctor. And pray what may your trouble be my good Sir.

Pa. 'Deed, Doctor, I'm no very sure; but I'm thinking it's a kind of weakness that makes me dizzy at times, and a kind of pinkling about my stomach—I'm just no right.

Dr. You are from the west country, I should suppose, Sir.

Pa. Yes, Sir, from Glasgow.

Dr. Aye; pray, Sir, are you a gourmand, a glutton?

Pa. God forbid, Sir. I'm one of the plainest men living in all the west country.

Dr. Then perhaps you're a drunkard?

Pa. No Dr Gregory; thank God, no one can accuse me of that; I'm of the dissenting persuasion, Doctor, and an elder, so ye may suppose I'm na drunkard.

Dr.—(Aside)—I'll suppose no such thing till you tell me your mode of life. I'm so much puzzled with your symptoms, Sir, that I should wish

* We conceal the name from delicacy; but Graham, Hunter, Kingam, and others, will vouch for the truth of the story, as they know the man well.

to hear in detail what you do eat and drink.—When do you breakfast, and what do you take to it?

Pa. I breakfast at nine o'clock. I take a cup of coffee, and one or two cups of tea; a couple of eggs, and a bit of ham or kipper'd salmon, or may be both, if they're good, and two or three rolls and butter.

Dr. Do you eat no honey, or jelly, or jam to breakfast?

Pa. O yes, Sir; but I don't count that as any thing.

Dr. Come, this is a very moderate breakfast. What kind of a dinner do you make?

Pa. Oh, Sir, I eat a very plain dinner indeed. Some soup, and some fish, and a little plain roast or boiled; for I dinna care for made dishes; I think, some way, they never satisfy the appetite.

Dr. You take a little pudding then, and afterwards some cheese?

Pa. O yes! though I don't care much about them.

Dr. You take a glass of ale or porter with your cheese?

Pa. Yes, one or the other; but seldom both.

Dr. Your west-country people generally take a glass of Highland whiskey after dinner.

Pa. Yes, we do; it's good for digestion.

Dr. Do you take any wine during dinner?

Pa. Yes, a glass or two of sherry; but I'm indifferent as to wine during dinner. I drink a good deal of beer.

Dr. What quantity of port do you drink?—

Pa. Oh, very little; not above half a dozen glasses, or so.

Dr. In the west country, it is impossible, I hear, to dine without punch?—Pa. Yes, Sir; indeed 'tis punch we drink chiefly; but for myself, unless I happen to have a friend with me, I never take more than a couple of tumblers or so, and that's moderate.

Dr. Oh, exceedingly moderate indeed! You then, after this slight repast, take some tea, and bread and butter?

Pa. Yes, before I go to the counting-house to read the evening letters.

Dr. And on your return you take supper, I suppose?—Pa. No, Sir, I canna be said to take supper; just something before going to bed; a rizzar'd haddock, or a bit of toasted cheese, or half a hundred of oysters, or the like o'that; and may be, two thirds of a bottle of ale; I take no regular supper.

Dr. But you take a little more-punch after that?—Pa. No, Sir, punch does not agree with me at bed time. I tak a tumbler of warm whiskey toddy at night; it is lighter to sleep on.

Dr. So it must be, no doubt. This, you say is your every day life; but upon great occasions, you perhaps exceed a little?

Pa. No, Sir, except when a friend or two dine with me, or I dine out, which, as I am a sober family man, does not often happen.

Dr. Not above twice a week?—Pa. No; not oftener.

Dr. Of course you sleep well, and have a good appetite?

Pa. Yes, Sir, thank God, I have; indeed, any wee harl o'health that I hae is about meal time.

Dr. (Assuming a severe look, knitting his brow, and lowering his eye brows.)—Now Sir you are a very pretty fellow indeed; you come

here and tell me you are a moderate man; and I might have believed you, did I not know the nature of the people in your part of the country; but upon examination, I find by your own showing, that you are a most voracious glutton; you breakfast in the morning in a style that would serve a moderate man for dinner; and from five o'clock in the afternoon, you undergo one almost uninterrupted loading of your stomach, till you go to bed. This is your moderation! You told me, too, another falshood—you said you were a sober man; yet by your own showing, you are a beer swiller, a dram drinker, a wine bibber, and a guzzler of Glasgow punch—a liquor, the name of which is associated in my mind, only with the ideas of low company and beastly intoxication. You tell me you eat indigestible suppers, and swill toddy to force sleep,—I see that you chew tobacco. Now, Sir, what human stomach can stand this? Go home, Sir, and leave off your present course of riotous living—take some dry toast and tea to your breakfast, some plain meat and soup for your dinner, without adding to it any thing to spur on your flagging appetite; you may take a cup of tea in the evening, but never let me hear of haddocks, and toasted cheese, and oysters, with their accompaniments of ale and toddy at night; give up chewing that vile, narcotic, nauseous, abomination, and there are some hopes your stomach may recover its tone, and you be in good health like your neighbours.

Pa. I'm sure, Doctor, I'm very much obliged to you—(taking out a bunch of bank notes)—I shall endeavour to—

Dr. Sir, you are not obliged to me—put up your money, Sir. Do you think I'll take a fee from you for telling you what you know as well as myself? Though you're no physician, Sir, you are not altogether a fool. You have read your bible, and you must know that drunkenness and gluttony are both sinful and dangerous; and whatever you may think, you have this day confessed to me that you are a notorious glutton and drunkard. Go home, Sir, and reform, or take my word for it your life is not worth half a year's purchase.

(Exit Patient, dumb, founded and looking blue.)

Dr.—(Solus)—Sober and temperate! Dr Watt tried to live in Glasgow, and made his patients live moderately, and purged and bled them when they were sick, but it would not do. Let the Glasgow Doctors prescribe beef-steaks, and rum-punch, and their fortune is made.—*Oracle of Health.*

INTELLIGENCE.

PIERCING IRON BY SULPHUR.—Colonel Evasin, director of the arsenal of Metz, in a letter to Gay Lussac, states the following experiments.

I placed a bar of wrought iron, about sixteen millimetres in thickness, (six tenths inch) into a common forge, fed by fossil coal, and when it was welding hot I drew it out, and applied to the surface a stick of sulphur six tenths of an inch in diameter. In fourteen seconds the sulphur had pierced a hole through the iron, perfectly circular. Another bar of iron, two inches thick, was pierced in fifteen seconds. The holes had the exact form of the sticks of sulphur employed, whether cylindrical or prismatic. They

were, however, more regular on the side at which the sulphur came out, than on that to which it was applied.

Steel bars, formed of old files welded together, were pierced more quickly than iron, and presented the same phenomenon.

Cast iron, heated nearly to the melting point, underwent no alteration by the application of sulphur to its surface. The sulphur did not even leave a mark. I took a piece of this cast iron and fashioned it into a crucible, and put into it some sulphur and iron. On heating the crucible, the iron and sulphur were quickly melted, but the crucible underwent no change.

ÆROSTATIC EXHIBITION.—The advancement of science is in few circumstances more conspicuously exhibited than in the confidence placed in its discoveries, by those whose attention is particularly drawn to them, and the reward such confidence receives from the public. Mr Marget recently undertook, at the garden of Tivoli, in Paris, the bold ærostatic experiment of riding a tame living stag in the air. The animal had been trained in a circus, and possessed extraordinary docility. After ascending to a considerable height, Mr M. fearing that a threatening storm might frighten the animal, thought proper to descend. He landed about two miles from the garden, still mounted on the stag, and rode directly to the house of the Mayor. The spectators were so much pleased with the performance, that they immediately made up a purse of 18,000 francs for the æronaut.

PYROTECHNY.—Mrs Cutbush, widow of the late Professor Cutbush, of the Military Academy at West Point, has issued proposals for publishing by subscription, a new work by her late husband, entitled, "*A System of Pyrotechny*, comprehending the Theory and Practice, with the application of Chemistry, designed for Exhibition and for War—in four parts. Containing an account of the Substances used in Fire-Works—the Instruments, Utensils, and Manipulations—Fire-Works, for Exhibition—and Military Pyrotechny. Adapted to the Military and Naval Officer, the man of Science, and Artificer."

DR BIGELOW'S LECTURES.—The following are the general subjects of the lectures, and we have only to express our best wishes for their success, and confidence of their utility.

Architecture; its origin, history, and characteristics in different ages and countries. General principles and terms of this art. Account of the order of antique architecture, and of the styles of building designated as Grecian, Roman, and Gothic.

Painting; some account of the optical and chemical laws of perspective, of light and shade, and of colouring. Modes of painting in water, oil, wax, fresco and distemper.

Engraving; the process of line engraving, of stippling, of etching, of mezzotinto, of aquatinta.

Lithography; its principles and processes.

Arts of Writing and Printing. Their history, materials and processes.

The economy of *Domestic Structure*; particularly with reference to the management of heat, light and ventilation. General considerations relating to fuel, to fire, to smoke, to chimnies, fire-places, stoves, windows and lamps.

Arts of Locomotion; facts relating to the progressive motion of animals, to wheel carriages, to roads and pavements.

Horology; account of the means employed at different periods of society for the measurement of time.

Manufacture of Glass, and of Pottery, and Porcelain; some account of their materials, processes and products.

History and description of the *Steam-Engine*.

The above subjects are intended to form a course of fifteen lectures for ladies and gentlemen, to be delivered on Thursday evening of each week, at 6 o'clock, beginning November 11th, provided the subscription is filled before that time.—The present subscription list is left at Cummings, Hilliard, & Co's Bookstore.

LOCAL EFFLUVIA.—On the 91st page of this volume of the *Intelligencer*, we inserted a history of disease occasioned in Chester, Pa. by local effluvia;—on the subject of these cases, we have just received a communication from Dr. Marsh, (the attending physician,) of which the following is an extract:—"I have now the pleasure to inform you, that the four patients who were removed from within the influence of the morbid atmosphere, (although three of them at the time presented very little hope of recovery) very soon put on a favourable appearance, and these cases have all terminated in health. And to add another confirmation to the generally received opinion among scientific persons, of the entire impossibility of febrile diseases being communicated by personal intercourse, no disease followed in any of the persons who were their close attendants after their removal."

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending October 30th; from the Health-Office Returns.

October 23.—Benjamin Conner, 26; Eliza Whitman, 36; Ruth Johnson, 73. 24th.—Ann Conwill, 11 mo.; Eliza Jane Beck, 11 mo.; Rebecca Parrot, 91; Erasmus L. Whitney, 16 mo. 25th.—Charles Dayley, 35. 26th.—Hannah Cross; Rosanah Leonard; Henry Butler, 37; William Culbert, 3. 27th.—Isanah Luscomb, 2; Martha Ann Jones, 20 mo.; Ann Melmoth; Richard Howard, 29. 28th.—James Whalan, 22; John Gould, 50. 29th.—Vincent Fitzgerald. 30th.—Dorcas Gardner; Rose Melinda Rice; Mary Bridge.

Typhus Fever, 1—*Consumption*, 5—*Asthma*, 1—*Old Age*, 1—*Teething*, 1—*Lung Fever*, 1—*Inflammation*, 1—*Brain Fever*, 1—*Canker*, 1—*Croup*, 1—*Pleurisy*, 1—*Bilious Fever*, 1.

DIED—In Fitzwilliam, (N. H.) Dr Jared Perkins, aged 31.

In Ipswich, Dr John Manning, a distinguished Physician, aged 87.

In New-Orleans, Dr J. Toncray.

In Hallowell, (Me.) Dr Benjamin Page, sen. æt. 78.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER:

Published weekly, at two dollars a year. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

AGENTS FOR THE MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

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Dr Frederick B. Page, Portland, Me.
Dr Jeremiah Williams, Warren, R. I.
Dr Elisha D. Payne, Freedom, Baltimore Co. Md.
Dr John W. Barkwell, Shine's Store, Twiggs, Co. Geo.
Dr Robert Carr Lane, Mobile, Alabama.
Dr Lemuel C. Paine, Esq. P. M. West Galway Church, Montgomery Co. N. Y.

We have forwarded proposals to gentlemen in most of the large towns in different parts of the union; when answers are received, their names will be inserted.

REPORTS.

WORMS, &c. &c.

We extract the following account from the Hull Advertiser, and have no doubt of its correctness, although we know not if it were from the pen of an amateur or a member of the profession.

George Fewster, aged about eight years, the son of a cow-keeper, of this place, was, for several months previous to February last, afflicted with severe indigestion, slight fever, thirst, and cough, accompanied by great emaciation of the limbs and enlargement of the abdomen, which had a leaden hue; a voracious appetite and offensive breath, which occasioned severe griping pains. The mother being apprehensive of the existence of worms, administered some drugs; when to her alarm, a great quantity of worms and snails, three or four very large caterpillars, and a variety of smaller insects, chiefly of the size and shape of maggots, were evacuated alive, embedded in a great mass of slime. Hardly a day passed during five or six weeks without the same occurring more or less. In April, three large horse leeches, in a very lively state, made their appearance in company with numbers of the above mentioned creatures. Much about the same time the poor child parted with (in consequence of an injection) upwards of a pint of tough jelly, which literally moved with insects in an early stage of their growth. The boy has been during the last six months under the care of one of the physicians of our infirmary, and still continues to be an out-patient. After a great variety of treatment he has regained a healthful look, and, it is hoped, has got entirely rid of his troublesome inmates. His parents state that he used to frequent a little stagnant pool, and drink from it by means of his tin mug; and that this pool contains most of the variety of insects which have been specified. Doubtless the boy had taken them unperceived as eggs into his stomach; and as he happened to be labouring under a very bad state of digestion, a settlement was obtained by them in the cells of the larger intestines, which probably could not have occurred in healthful organs. The above case, though not unexampled, is fully as striking, and is as capable of being authenticated, as any that has ever been recorded.

CASE OF POISONING BY OPIUM.

Mr Hayes, member of the Royal College of Surgeons of London, was called to a lady within half an hour from the time she had swallowed about thirteen drachms of laudanum. He found the patient lying on her back in a state of stupor, with the mouth half open, and eyes shut, countenance ghastly, lips livid. The pupils were found to be greatly dilated, tunica conjunctiva reddened, and her whole aspect like that of a person recently much convulsed, and now dying. Two drachms of sulphate of zinc were dissolved in a small teacup-full of warm water, and a small quantity was, with much difficulty, got down her throat—not perhaps exceeding ℥j. of the sulphate. After some time, another quanti-

ty was got down, and vomiting was produced, the ejected matters smelling of opium. Deglutition now became more easy, and more of the sulphate was exhibited, which was succeeded by more copious vomiting. There were shortly symptoms of determination of blood to the head, and they were relieved by sanguineous depletion. After the laudanum was considered to be completely evacuated, acids and coffee were administered—and the patient recovered. The treatment was very judicious, according to the then known means; but the injecting apparatus will now supersede all others, especially in cases of poisoning by tincture of opium.

OBSERVATIONS.

OF THE ADVANTAGES OF CONSOLIDATION.

As there are many measures which for their enforcement require, not only implied consent, but a positive understanding among us, I would urge the necessity of our associating together, (as has been done in a neighbouring city) and adopting rules for our general government. There are many points that cannot otherwise be well observed; for the rules which one may have prescribed for himself, may allow more latitude than those of another. For instance, one may refuse to meet an empiric, while another in perfect consistence with his views of propriety, may consent. One may feel himself bound to decline all attendance on the patient of a brother physician, until he is either regularly called to meet him, or has learned from him that he is fairly dismissed, while another may be satisfied with the assertion of his patient or his friends. One may acknowledge medical pretensions, which others may disregard. Some may think it proper to accept or even ask a situation, of which a worthy brother has been improperly deprived, while others may consider it highly dishonourable. Some may believe an offence against an individual member a general, others a mere private concern. Want of coincidence in these, and many other subjects, greatly diminishes the weight and respectability of the medical character. The strict etiquette of one, is often mistaken for foolish nicety, and the inattention of another, attributed to rudeness; and thus equally well meaning persons, sometimes misunderstand each other, accusation and recrimination follow, the public is troubled with their mutual complaint, and the general credit injured. If we would organize ourselves into a regular body, we should establish fixed principles of conduct, and when any violation occurred, all would know how to treat the offender. Then disputes might be referred to competent judges, and public appeals be rendered unnecessary. When a physician forfeited the respect of his brethren, all would concur in withholding it from him, and though his professional worth might be recognized, the general suspension of friendly intercourse would be ample punishment.—If one member were injured or slighted in a public way, the whole body would feel bound to resent it, and we would not then hail party feuds, or

individual debasement, as opportunities for personal advancement.

There is one point that cannot be properly settled, but by common concurrence, and at this I have already hinted. I mean the rates of charges. To our disgrace we have now, among other matters to be gained at a low rate, *cheap doctors*. The poor consider the trifle they afford their physician, a full compensation; the rich reason from this, and resent what they term *extortion* when a fair demand is made, apply to another, who, for fear of offence, measures his services by their narrow standard, thus justifying their censure, and becoming the plunderer of the field he ought to enrich. This should not be. Yield every thing to necessity, but nothing to avarice; and remember when we undervalue our own labours, we rob our profession.

In addition to the unanimity among ourselves likely to result, we would derive another great advantage from association. The public generally would cease to make unreasonable requests, and see the propriety of some nice observances they now condemn. Many things censured as private acts, would be approved when understood to result from common agreement. While individual conduct remained blameless, the reputation of the profession would be pledged for its support, and our characters would cease to be at the mercy of every man who chooses to constitute himself judge, and whose reproaches we now justify by our constant bickering.

PREMATURE INTERMENT.

In cases of malignant fevers, putrescency advances speedily, and, under such circumstances, the time of the funeral ought not to be unnecessarily protracted; but this haste is unnecessary in cool or even temperate weather, and always in northern climates. Young persons in the bloom of health and vigour, may be struck down by an illness of only a few days, or even hours, but they ought not to be consigned to the same summary sentence, merely because custom has ordained it. No sooner has breathing apparently ceased, and the visage assumed a ghastly or death-like look, than the patient, after his eyes are closed, is too often hurried into a coffin, and the body, scarcely yet cold, is precipitated into the grave. So extremely fallacious are the signs of death, that too often has the semblance been mistaken for the reality: especially after sudden accidents, or short illness. In many of these cases, however, by prompt means and judicious treatment, life has been happily restored.

Unequivocal proofs of death should always be waited for, and every possible means of resuscitation persevered in, when these do not appear, especially when we consider how appearances may be deceitful, and how unexpectedly the latent sparks of life may be rekindled. The following method was the means of restoring to her friends, a lady who had been apparently dead for some time.—Rub a wine glass with flannel before a fire, and immediately apply it to the mouth of the person supposed dead, when, if

any of the vital principles remain, symptoms of moisture will appear in a short time on the glass.

TO DISTINGUISH GOOD RHUBARB FROM BAD.

The general characters of good rhubarb (the most common of all medicines) are, its having a whitish or clear yellow colour, being dry, solid, and compact, moderately heavy, and brittle; when recently broken appearing marked with yellow or reddish veins, mixed with white; being easily pulverizable; forming a powder of a fine bright yellow, having the peculiar, nauseous, aromatic smell of rhubarb, and a sub-acrid, bitterish, somewhat astringent taste, and when chewed feeling gritty under the teeth, speedily colouring the saliva, and not appearing very mucilaginous. The size and form of the pieces are of little consequence; only we must break the large ones to see that they are not decayed or rotten within, and also observe that they are not musty or worm-eaten. This is the more necessary, as damaged pieces are frequently so artfully dressed up, and coloured with powdered rhubarb, as to impose on the buyer.

MEDICAL VIRTUES OF TAMARINDS.

The nature of this fruit is very like that of prunes, but is more acid, and enters as an useful ingredient into the lenative electuary. It is found of the highest use in the sore-throat, as a powerful cleanser; and, put into boiling water, until moderately cold, it is a salubrious drink to persons parched under the heat of fever, and in the lowest stage of putrid fever.

SUFFOCATION BY STRANGLING OR HANGING.

In hanging, the external veins of the neck are compressed by the cord, and the return of the blood from the head thereby impeded, from the moment that suspension takes place; but as the heart continues to act for a few seconds after the wind-pipe is closed, the blood which is sent to the head during this interval, is necessarily accumulated there. Hence it is, that in hanged persons the face is greatly swollen, and of a dark red or purple colour; the eyes are commonly suffused with blood, enlarged, and prominent.

From the great accumulation of blood in the vessels of the head, many have been of opinion, that hanging kills chiefly by inducing apoplexy; but it has, however, been clearly proved, that in hanging, as well as in drowning, the exclusion of the air from the lungs is the immediate cause of death. From which we may infer that the same measures recommended for drowned persons, are also necessary here; with this addition, that opening the jugular veins, or applying cupping glasses to the neck, will tend considerably to facilitate the restoration of life, by lessening the quantity of blood contained in the vessels of the head, and thereby taking off the pressure from the brain. Except in persons who are very full of blood, the quantity taken away need seldom exceed an ordinary teacup-ful, which will, in general, be sufficient to unload the vessels of the head, without weakening the powers of life.

INTENSE COLD.

Where the circulation and breathing are suspended from exposure to cold, instead of carrying the body to the fire, or even into a

warm room, it should at first be removed to an apartment without any fire. The clothes should be immediately taken off, and the whole body well rubbed with snow, or washed in very cold water. When this has been continued for ten or fifteen minutes, we may restore the temperature of the body slowly, by using water made gradually warmer than the first, by repeated small additions of hot water to it.

TREATMENT OF FROST-BITTEN PARTS.

By exposure to extreme cold, the fingers, ears, toes, &c. are frozen. If, in such cases, artificial heat be too suddenly applied, mortification will ensue, and the frost-bitten parts will spontaneously separate. Hence they ought to be thawed, either by rubbing them with snow, or immersing them in cold water, and afterwards applying warmth in the most careful and gradual manner; by which they will soon be restored to their usual tone and activity. Indeed (a popular writer justly observes) the great secret, or art of restoring suspended animation, consists in nicely adjusting the natural and artificial stimuli to the exact tone of the irritable fibre.

LEECHES.

Few practitioners in this part of the country are aware of the immense utility of the application of leeches in cases of local congestion & inflammation. In our cities they are used much more freely than in the country; and that our brethren who are not acquainted with the facilities afforded in our practice by these animals, may judge of the estimation in which they are held among us, we would inform them that our neighbour paid his apothecary thirty six dollars for the leeches alone which were used in his family the past year.

The cause of the infrequency of their use in the country, is, we apprehend, the difficulty which attends the application of them. The part to which they are to be attached should first be thoroughly washed with warm water and meal, until the matter of perspiration or the effluvia of any medicated liquid, is entirely removed. It should then be wiped dry, and bathed for a few moments in warm milk and water, and then rubbed with a small piece of raw fresh beef; a dozen punctures should next be made with a lancet, just deep enough to draw blood, and the phial which contains the animals in pure water, should be presented. By holding it a few moments, they will be found to attach themselves readily, and much time and trouble be saved which must inevitably be wasted if the ordinary method is pursued.

DYSPEPSIA AND DYSENTERIA.

Our readers may be a little at a stand to know why we have placed the names of these two diseases together. The reason is because we conceive there exists some analogy in the nature of their proximate causes—that in both, the villous coat of the stomach and intestines is partially or wholly abraded, and the nervous coat left in a state of unnatural exposure. In dyspepsia the stomach is the seat of the evil,—its coat is abraded slowly, and there exists little if any febrile affection;—in dysentery, the difficulty lies in the rectum and large intestines, the abrasion is more sudden and complete, and attended by consequent fever. The pain, and in fact every symptom of both these complaints, confirm this opinion, and although it was suggested more than a century ago by some of the Scotch Physicians, it speedily, but unjustly, shared the fate

of many other theories which existed at that period, but which were founded more on hypothesis than facts.

Circumstances which it is unnecessary here to detail, led us to the conclusion that the loss of this lubricating shield to the more sensible coats of the digestive apparatus, had been sustained and was the cause of the distress and derangement in several cases, both of dyspepsia and dysentery, which have recently fallen under our observation. By the use of anodynes to diminish the irritability of the nervous coat, spermace-ti, blanc-mange, decoctions of wheat bran, and slippery-elm bark, &c. as temporary substitutes for the abraded membrane, and a tea-spoonful of magnesia at night, to correct the acidity and acrimony by which the disease was originated and kept up, our most sanguine expectations have been realized, the secretion has been re-produced in a few weeks, and every symptom of disease vanished.

During this course—which we recommend to the examination of our brethren of the faculty—it is necessary that the articles of diet should be of a soft, nourishing, & mucilaginous nature; small quantities of these should be taken at a time, and every thing acrid, very hot, or disagreeably cold, should be avoided. Calomel, or in fact any of the mercurial preparations, tend only to increase the evil, and frequent purgations are equally injurious.

REVIEW.

Use of the Dead to the Living.

The last Westminster Review contains, under this title, an able essay on the subject of dissection; on its importance to medical science, and on the necessity of freeing it, by some legislative enactment, from those difficulties with which it is at present surrounded.—Though particularly intended for the British public, the observations which it contains are so generally applicable, that we shall without apology present some of them to our readers. That a knowledge of anatomy is the basis of surgical science, is a fact so familiar to professional men as not to need illustration. Surgery is in fact the creation of modern days. The most eminent practitioners of ancient times, were unable to perform any operation which required the use of the knife; and the whole progress which has been made in this science, may be traced to the increasing knowledge of the structure of the human body. That Medicine depends also on anatomy, though not so obvious a fact, is equally certain. It is only by a diligent examination of the organs that their functions can be understood; and it is the derangement of these organs and these functions which constitute disease, and are the objects of medical treatment.

The question then is, how is this knowledge to be acquired; how is that intimate acquaintance with anatomy to be obtained, which may enable the surgeon to operate with skill, with boldness, and with safety? The only means of effecting this object, we answer, are an examination of the structures as they actually exist; a careful dissection of the human body; a long continued and laborious study of all the parts of this wonderful machine, with all those connections and relations by which they make up one harmonious whole. The student must dissect, and he must dissect for himself.

It may be said that much of this labour is rendered unnecessary by the researches of others; that men of unrivalled sagacity have already devoted their time to this employment; that they have left us the fruits of their labour in plates, in preparations & in figures; and

that these preclude the necessity of actual dissection. It is not the whole objection to this statement that it acknowledges the utility of the practice it condemns; nor is it the whole defect of the plan thus proposed, that it would prevent absolutely the farther advancement of the science, and cut off from the student all hope of adding to the stock of knowledge already possessed. The fact is that no preparation, however good, and no figure, however well executed, can give a perfect idea of the parts for which they are designed. Size and colour may be designated with tolerable accuracy; texture can be represented but very imperfectly, and consistency will be totally confounded. Now all these, and many other circumstances, go to make up the idea which the Surgeon has of the structures which are concerned in operations; and unless this idea be at once distinct and correct, he will be utterly unable to recognize them in the living body. If this statement be just, (and for its correctness we appeal to all acquainted with surgery,) it follows that the only mode of becoming an anatomist, is patient, minute, and personal examinations of human subjects.

The next question then is—how are subjects for this purpose to be obtained? Every mode which has yet been devised for this purpose, either in Great Britain or in this country, has been met by popular prejudice on the one hand, and by legislative opposition on the other. That these prejudices are unreasonable; that they recoil on the very persons who most indulge them, viz. the poorer class of society; that too much weight has been given them in the legal codes of both countries; that the laws thus made have thrown new obstacles in the way of a pursuit already repulsive; that they have ever been eluded with a connivance which has brought contempt on all law; that where best executed they have been the source of infinite evil; that their violation, becoming a matter of traffic, has only been the means of increasing the expense of the profession; and that these evils loudly demand a remedy, are the points on which the author dwells most forcibly; and it is under these heads that we propose to follow him.

After stating how natural is that sentiment, which leads all mankind to regard with respect the persons of deceased friends, and to detest the idea of their mutilation; and after tracing the operation of this feeling from the earliest ages to our own times, he thus proceeds.

"Even at present the prejudices of the people on this subject are violent and deeply rooted. The measure of that violence may be estimated by the degree of abhorrence with which they regard those persons who are employed to procure the subjects necessary for dissection. In this country there is no other method of obtaining subjects but that of exhumation: aversion to this employment may be pardoned: dislike to the persons who engage in it is natural; but to regard them with detestation, to exult in their punishment, to determine for themselves its nature and measure, and to endeavour to assume the power of inflicting it with their own hands, is absurd. Magistrates have too often fostered the prejudices of the people, and afforded them the means of executing their vengeance on the objects of their aversion. The press has uniformly allied itself with the ignorance and violence of the vulgar, and has done every thing in its power to inflame the passions which it was its duty to endeavour to soothe. It is notorious that the winter before last there was scarcely a week in which the papers did not contain the

most exaggerated and disgusting statements; the appetite which could be gratified with such representations was sufficiently degraded; but still more base was the servility which could pander to it. Half a century ago there was in Scotland no difficulty in obtaining the subjects which were necessary to supply the schools of anatomy.—The consequence was, that medicine and surgery suddenly assumed new life—started from the torpor in which they had been spell-bound—and made an immediate, and rapid, and brilliant progress. The new seminaries constantly sent into the world men of the most splendid abilities, at once demonstrating the excellence of the schools in which they were educated, and rendering them illustrious. Pupils flocked to them from all quarters of the globe, and they essentially contributed to that advancement of science which the present age has witnessed. In the 19th century the good people of Scotland, that intelligent, that cool and calculating, that most reasonable and thinking people, have thought proper to return to the worst feeling and the worst conduct of the darkest periods of antiquity. There is at present no offence whatever, which seems to have such power to heat and to exalt into a kind of torrent the blood which usually flows so calmly and sluggishly in the veins of a Scotchman."

"The average number of medical students in Edinburgh is 700 each session. For several years past the difficulty of procuring subjects in that place has been so great, that out of all that number, not more than 150 or 200 have ever attempted to dissect; and even these have latterly been so opposed in their endeavours to prosecute their studies, that many of them have left the place in disgust. We have been informed by a friend, that he alone was personally acquainted with twenty individuals who retired from it at the beginning of last session, and who went to pursue their studies at Dublin, and we know that vast numbers followed their example at the end of the winter course. The medical school at Edinburgh, in fact, is now subsisting entirely on its past reputation; in the course of a few years it will be entirely at an end, unless the system be changed."

Having illustrated this part of the subject by some farther facts, he goes on to remark—

"Much of this opposition on the part of the people arises from the present mode of procuring subjects. Fortunately, there is in Great Britain no custom, no superstition, no law, and we may add, no prejudice against anatomy itself. There is even a general conviction of its necessity; there may be a feeling that it is a repulsive employment, but it is commonly acknowledged that it must not be neglected. The opposition which is made, is made not against anatomy, but against the practice of exhumation; and this is a practice which ought to be opposed. It is in the highest degree revolting; it would be disgraceful to a horde of savages; every feeling of the human heart rises up against it: so long as no other means of procuring bodies for dissection are provided, it must be tolerated; but, in itself, it is alike odious to the ignorant and the enlightened, to the most uncultivated and the most refined."

Exhumation however is forbidden by the law, and in regard to this the legal codes of most of our principal

states do not materially differ from that of England.—By both, the disinterment of bodies is prohibited under the severest penalties; and in both countries there are continual examples of these penalties being incurred.

"But," says our author, "it is an error to suppose that these punishments operate to prevent exhumation; their only effect is to raise the price of subjects: a little reflection will show that they can have no other operation. At present, exhumation is the only method by which subjects for dissection can be procured; but subjects for this purpose must be procured; and be the difficulties what they may, will be procured: diseases will occur, operations must be performed, medical men must be educated, anatomy must be studied, dissections must go on. Unless some other means for affording a supply be adopted, whatever be the law or the popular feeling, neither magistrates, nor judges, nor juries, will, or can put an entire stop to the practice. It is one which from the absolute necessity of the case must be allowed. What is the consequence?—So long as the practice of exhumation continues, a race of men must be trained up to violate the law. These men must go out in company for the purpose of nightly plunder, and plunder of the most odious kind, tending in a peculiar and most alarming measure to brutify the mind, and to eradicate every feeling and sentiment worthy of a man. This employment becomes a school in which men are trained for the commission of the most daring and inhuman crimes. Its operation is similar, but much worse than the nightly banding to violate the game laws, because there is something in the violation of the grave, which tends still more to degrade the character and to harden the heart. This offence is connived at; nay, it is rewarded; these men are absolutely paid to violate the law; and by men of reputation and influence and society. The transition is but too easy to the commission of other offences in the hope of similar connivance, if not of similar reward.

"It is an odious thing that the teachers of anatomy should be brought into contact with such men; that they should be obliged to employ them, and that they should even be in their power; which they are to such a degree, that they are obliged to bear with the wantonness of their tyranny and insult. All the clamour against these men, all the punishment inflicted on them, only operate to raise the premium on the repetition of their offence. This premium the teachers of anatomy are obliged to pay, which these men perfectly understand, who do not at all dislike the opposition which is made to their vocation. It gives them no unreasonable pretext for exorbitancy in their demands. In general they are men of infamous character; some of them are thieves, others are the companions and abettors of thieves. Almost all of them are extremely destitute. When apprehended for the offence in question, the teachers of anatomy are obliged to pay the expenses of the trial and to support their families while they are in prison; whence the idea of immunity is associated, in these men's minds, with the violation of the law, and when they do happen to incur its penalties, they practically find that they and their families are provided for, and this provision comes to them in the shape of a reward for the commission of their offence. The operation of such a system on the minds of the individuals themselves is ex-

ceedingly pernicious, and it is not a little dangerous to the community."

It is commonly supposed that the anxiety with which students seek opportunities of dissecting, arises from the pleasure which it gives them to mangle the bodies of their fellow-creatures. How cheerfully the student would resign this pleasure—how gladly he would avoid dissection, did not an imperious sense of duty urge him to the task, we who have experience on the subject, can well attest. But even were they correct who believe the occupation an agreeable one, would not the danger which attends it, be, of itself, a sufficient check to its pursuit, were we urged to it by any thing less than absolute necessity? Our author asserts with justice, that a winter never passes, without proving fatal to several students, who die from injuries received in dissection.

"This single fact is sufficient to demonstrate to the public, that instead of throwing obstacles in the way of dissection, it is a duty which they owe to themselves to afford every possible facility to its practice, and to hold out to every member of the profession, the most powerful inducements to engage in it, by rewarding with confidence those who cultivate anatomy, by making excellence in anatomy indispensable to all offices in dispensaries and hospitals, and by thus rendering it impossible for any one who is ignorant of anatomy, to obtain rank in his profession."

He next inquires into a plan by which these evils are proposed to be remedied. We shall not follow him in the details of his plan, but simply remark that it includes a regulation by which the bodies of those who die in the public charitable institutions, and of others, whose friends shall decline to inter them, shall become public property. It may be said that the poor will thus be sacrificed to the wants of the rich: but the author thus forcibly states the answer to this objection.

"The question is, whether the surgeon shall be allowed to gain knowledge by operating on the bodies of the dead, or driven to obtain it by practising on the bodies of the living. If the dead bodies of the poor are not appropriated to this use, their living bodies will and must be.—The rich will always have it in their power to select, for the performance of an operation, the surgeon who has already signalized himself by success: but that surgeon, if he have not obtained the dexterity which ensures success, by dissecting and operating on the dead, must have acquired it by making experiments on the living bodies of the poor."

"The effect of the entire abolition of the practice of dissecting the dead, would be, to convert poor-houses and public hospitals into so many schools where the surgeon, by practising on the poor, would learn to operate on the rich with safety and dexterity. This would be the certain and inevitable result; and this, indeed, would be to treat them with real indignity, and horrid injustice; and proves, how possible it is to show an apparent consideration for the poor, and yet practically to treat them in the most injurious and cruel manner."

The plan proposed by our author, of making legal provision for the demands of anatomical science, has been tried in France, and with the happiest result. As a proof of this, we are presented with the following account, with which we shall close the present article, and which states—

"1. That the faculty of medicine at Paris is authorized to take from the civil hospitals, from the prisons, and from the dépôts of mendicity, bodies which are necessary for teaching anatomy. 2. That a gratuity of eight-pence is given to the attendants in the hospitals for each body. 3. That upon the foundation by the National Convention, of schools of health, the statutes of their foundation declare, that the subjects necessary for the schools of anatomy shall be taken from the hospitals, and that since this period, the council of hospitals and the prefect of police, have always permitted the practice. 4. That M. Breschet, chief of the anatomical department of the faculty of Paris, sends a carriage daily to the different hospitals, which brings back the necessary number of bodies: that this number has sometimes amounted to 2000 per annum, for the faculty only, without reckoning those used in L'Hôpital de la Pitié, but that since the general attention which has recently been bestowed upon pathologic anatomy, numbers of bodies are opened in the civil and military hospitals, and that the faculty seldom obtain more than 1000 or 1200. 5. That, besides the dissections by the faculty of medicine, and those pursued in L'Hôpital de la Pitié, theatres of anatomy are opened in all the great hospitals, for the pupils of those establishments: that in these institutions anatomy is carefully taught, and that pupils have all the facilities for dissection that can be desired. 6. That the price of a body varies from four shillings to eight shillings and sixpence. 7. That after dissection, the bodies are wrapped in cloths, and carried to the neighbouring cemetery, where they are received for ten-pence. 8. That the practice of exhumation is abolished; that there are insurmountable obstacles to the return of that system, and that bodies are never taken from burial grounds, without an order for exhumation, which is given only when the tribunals require it for the purpose of medico-legal investigations. 9. That though the people have an aversion to the operations of dissection, yet they never make any opposition to them, provided respect be paid to the laws of decency and salubrity, on account of the deep conviction that prevails of their utility. 10. That the relatives of the deceased seldom or never oppose the opening of any body, if the physicians desire it. That all the medical students in France, with scarcely any exception, dissect, and that that physician or surgeon who is not acquainted with anatomy, is universally regarded as the most ignorant of men."

INTELLIGENCE.

MORTALITY IN LARGE TOWNS.—A better police, a more abundant supply of water, and above all, increased attention to domestic cleanliness, have greatly diminished the insalubrity of the large towns in the civilized part of Europe. In Paris the annual mortality is now only one in 32; in the 17th century it was one in 25 or 26; and in the 14th century, according to data supplied by an old manuscript, it was one in 16 or 17. If confidence may be put in this last statement, the rate of mortality has diminished one half since the 14th century. The births, which formerly fell short of the deaths in number, now exceed them.

THE PLAGUE.—The ravages of the plague having extended themselves rapidly in Moldavia and Wallachia, the most rigorous measures of precaution have been adopted in the frontier provinces of Austria, as well as the adjacent provinces of Russia. The cordon

formed by the Russian Army of the South, along the frontiers, has been considerably re-inforced, merchandise is no longer allowed to pass, and travellers are subjected to a most rigorous quarantine.

PETRIFIED BRAIN.—A French Surgeon lately produced an ox's brain before the Society of Medicine. It was not only petrified, but had acquired the hardness of flint. The butcher, with all his might could not cleave it asunder. What is here remarkable, this ox was both fat and vigorous, so as to break loose four times from the butcher. The only other instance of a petrified ox's brain on record, is that of Bartholin's ox, killed at Stockholm; but that ox was very lean, appeared sickly, went always with his head down, which determined the owner to part with him.

BLACK FEVER.—The Black Fever has appeared at Nottingham, (Eng) and is attributed to Egyptian Cotton.

POISONING FROM TOBACCO.—The English papers give an account of a child's being poisoned to death, by swallowing a piece of half smoked tobacco. The poisonous quality is in the oil, which exudes in smoking.

EFFECT OF INTEMPERANCE.—A man, by the name of Kirkwood, died very suddenly in Lancaster, Penn. in consequence of drinking three pints of whiskey.

RATS.—One of the late London papers contains a well authenticated recent case of a child having been bitten by rats, at night, in bed, in such a way as to have been nearly killed by loss of blood. Several instances of the kind have occurred in the United States.

PAPER.—A substitute for rags, for paper making, has been discovered in France. It will make the best of paper, at one half the present price; and it is supposed the secret will be purchased by the trade, both in France, England and America.

CORRESPONDENCE.—We shall be obliged to the author of the communication respecting "recovery from the effects of opium," if he will favour us with his name and place of residence. It is our established rule not to insert accounts of remarkable cases without knowing where devolves the responsibility.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending November 5th; from the Health-Office Returns.

October 29th.—Elizabeth T. Walker, 2; William Dutton, 23; David Mc Gee, 12 mo.; Mercy Mc Ellroy, 65. 30th.—Eliza J. King, 4. November 1st.—John Holland; Sarah Harris; Edward Crook, 74; Louisa Maria Little, 9 mo.; Timothy Warren, 68; Jonathan B. Lane, 21; Abigail Thayer, 42; Jacob Peterson, 13 mo. 3d.—Lucy Low; Martin Byrne, jun. 2 days; John H. Foegt, 3; Sarah Cook, 48. 4th.—Abigail Bride, 50. 5th.—Hollis Mason, 23 mo.; Abigail Smith, 77; Samuel Hanson, 48; Edmund Perkins, jun. 4 mo.

Croup, 3—Typhus Fever, 2—Dysentery, 1—Paralysis, 1—Consumption, 5—Rheumatism, 1—Fits, 1—Lung Fever, 1—Old Age, 1—Infantile, 1.

DIED.—At Princeton, Doctor Henry Bagg, aged 44.

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Dr Elisha D. Payne, Freedom, Baltimore Co. Md.
Dr John W. Barkwell, Shine's Store, Twiggs, Co. Geo.
Dr Robert Carr Lane, Mobile, Alabama.
Dr Lemuel C. Paine, Esq. P. M. West Gateway Church, Montgomery Co. N. Y.

We have forwarded proposals to gentlemen in most of the large towns in different parts of the union; when answers are received, their names will be inserted.

OBSERVATIONS.

TREATMENT IN CASES OF POISON.

J. F. A. Troussel, D. M. P. has written a book on the diseases and accidents which threaten the immediate destruction of life, and in this treatise gives us not only the remedies which should be promptly administered in cases of apoplexy, convulsions, hemorrhage, syncope and the like, but the most proper and powerful antidotes to the different species of poison. It is not from this book however we have selected the following directions;—we are indebted for them to Dr James Webster, jun. of Philadelphia—and it is unnecessary for us to speak of their importance, or suggest the propriety of every physician's being perfectly familiar with this species of information.

POISONING BY CANTHARIDES. Vomiting should be excited by mild diluent drinks, as sugar and water, barley water, linseed tea, &c. or sweet oil may be taken. For the inflammatory symptoms, the usual depletory measures must be had recourse to, and emollient clysters should be freely administered. "Camphor dissolved in oil may be rubbed over the belly and on the thighs." Should it have been taken in the form of powder, it may be detected by its peculiar lustre in the matters discharged.

VEGETABLE POISONS. With respect to the treatment, our first object will be to endeavour to evacuate the contents of the stomach; for this purpose, we must resort to the employment of emetics. Sulphate of zinc would seem the most proper, but ipecacuanha, and tartarized antimony, have been highly recommended. Their operation should be aided by a very free exhibition of large quantities of warm beverages, as barley water, mucilaginous drinks, &c.; at the same time that the fauces are to be tickled with a feather. "A tobacco cataplasm should be laid over the epigastrium." The tepid bath, with emollient injections, must also be employed.—Should these means not succeed, we must endeavour to pump out the contents of the stomach. When we have completely evacuated the stomach, it may perhaps be necessary to clear the alimentary canal of its contents; with this view, we should administer a brisk cathartic. In order to relieve the severe pain in the abdomen, it will be proper to employ fomentations, and local abstraction of blood by cups or leeches.

It not unfrequently happens when the stomach has been completely evacuated, that the effects of the poison do not disappear. In such cases, we must order the person to stir about. Strong coffee, or diluted vinegar, should be given freely. "Camphor mixture with æther may be taken frequently, and if insensibility be considerable, warmth, friction, and blisters may be employed." Should inflammation supervene, we must recur to the antiphlogistic measures.

In the Annals of Philosophy for May, 1820, p. 380, there is a paper giving an account of several experiments performed by Mr M. Drapiez, by which he ascertained that "the fruit of the *Fewilla Cordifolia* is a powerful antidote against

vegetable poisons." These experiments were performed on dogs. He poisoned several with hemlock, rhus toxicodendron, and nux vomica. "All those that were left to the effects of the poison died; but those to whom the fruit of the *fewilla cordifolia* was administered, recovered completely after a short illness." A poultice of the fruit prevented the ill effects of a wound inflicted by arrows dipped in the juice of vegetable poisons.

NARCOTIC POISONS. In as much as the same objects are to be attained, the same course of treatment is to be pursued in this, as in the former class. Should the stupor or drowsiness (peculiar to this class) remain the same after these means have been employed, topical bleeding by cups, or from the jugular vein, should be tried, aided by blisters to the head and extremities, together with warm stimulating frictions. What we before said of the *fewilla cordifolia*, is applicable in this place; it will be recollected that it must be in "as recent a state as possible."

MERCURY. Called to a person who is suspected to have taken corrosive sublimate, we must endeavour to promote vomiting by the administration of very large quantities of diluent drinks, as fresh milk, gum arabic water, barley water, gruel, &c. Since the experiments of M. Orfila, the antidotal powers of albumen have been fully established by repeated trials. Consequently, we should at the same time give the whites of eggs in large quantities, beaten up with water. Should we fail by these means, and inflammatory symptoms require it, the antiphlogistic measures must be employed.

ARSENIC. It is recommended in these cases, to endeavour to promote vomiting by the exhibition of an emetic of sulphate of zinc or ipecacuanha, assisted by drinking large quantities of sweetened water, decoction of linseed, mallows, or other emollient drinks. Lime water with sugar, or chalk and water, have been highly recommended to be drunk freely where the arsenic has been taken in solution. Milk, according to Mr Navier, has a peculiar efficacy in dissolving arsenic.

Numerous articles have been recommended as antidotes to arsenic, as liver of sulphur, charcoal, vegetable decoctions, &c. According to Orfila, however, "they ought not to be used, because they are not only useless but often injurious." We are not to neglect the general treatment; for this purpose, clysters, bleeding local and general, warm fomentations, with frequent emollient clysters, &c. must be had recourse to. When the symptoms have subsided, the patient should be put upon a light nutritive diet, as chicken broth, gruel, &c.; solid food must not be given.

MINERAL ACIDS. Large quantities of dissolved soap and chalk should be drank, or, mix an ounce of calcined magnesia with a quart of water, of which give a tumbler full every few minutes. Endeavour to promote vomiting by tickling the fauces. If oxalic acid has been taken, chalk and water must be given in preference.—When the poison is evacuated, give diluent drinks,

as gruel, milk, &c. together with injections of the same. Inflammatory symptoms are to be treated on general principles. Water alone should never be given, when sulphuric acid has been taken, as "intense heat is generated by the mixture."

ADULTERATION OF WINES.

We did think, from our own observation, that the art of adulterating wine had arrived at as great perfection in this country as any other.—By the high authority, however, of the Edinburgh Review, we are induced to yield the palm to Great Britain; although we must still think that John is far behind us in the equally, and indeed more enviable art of adulterating rum, brandy, and gin.

Every day—says that popular Journal—we meet with advertisements in the British newspapers, and the walls of London are covered with bills, announcing sales of *old crusted Port*, *sparkling Champagne*, &c. at prices which would not really cover the prime cost, exclusive altogether of duty, of such wines, if they were genuine. The low duty on Cape wines—the veriest trash ever imported into England—has greatly facilitated these scandalous frauds, by furnishing the brewers with a cheaper and more convenient menstruum for their preparations than they formerly used. Mr Morewood, surveyor of excise, states in his late work on *Inebriating Liquors*, that *one half of the Port, and five-sixths of the white wines consumed in London, are the produce of the home presses*. And there is scarcely a village in the empire without its wine-brewer, or without an ample stock of port, sherry, claret, and champagne, hardly a single gallon of which ever crossed the channel.

Guernsey is one of the favourite seats of the wine adulterators. In the year 1812, according to the custom-house books of Oporto, 135 pipes and 26 hogsheads were shipped for Guernsey.—In the same year, there were landed at the London docks alone, 2,545 pipes and 160 hogsheads of wine from that island!

MEMOIRS.

DR BENJAMIN PAGE, LATE OF HALLOWELL, (ME.)

Dr Page was born in Kensington, N. H. was a patriot of the revolution, and the eldest number of one of the most extensive and respectable families in this State. He was formerly a member of the New Hampshire Medical Society, and for several years, also, a member of the Legislature of that State. He acted many months as Surgeon in the American Army, during the years 1777—81, and was present at the battle of Bennington, at Ticonderoga, &c. He removed to the State of Maine in 1800, and continued in medical practice, to which he was ardently attached, until within the last few years of his life. His constitution was naturally vigorous and healthy, his manners courtly, and his mind active and intelligent. He was esteemed a good and excellent man, regarded as a worthy, useful and patriotic citizen, respected as a physician, and

beloved as a kind and affectionate husband, parent and friend. He lived to see his children happily settled around him, breathed his last moments amid the sympathies of his numerous family and friends, and died in the firm belief of the Christian religion, and in the full assurance of future happiness and reward, in another and a better world.

DR JOHN OWEN, LATE OF BALTIMORE.

The recent death of Dr John Owen is a severe loss to the city of Baltimore. In the 50th year of his age, in the vigour of life and usefulness, he has been suddenly arrested by the hand of fate. The heart, whose philanthropy embraced the universe with the circle of its affections, has ceased its pulsations; the hand which "open as day to melting charity," was ever extended to relieve the distressed, lies cold within its tenement of clay. The scenes which marked the individual, and served to attach his friends so strongly to him, are to live only "in the memory of days that are past." His eulogium as a Physician, might rest with those who have come within the scope of his widely diffused practice. An almost intuitive knowledge of the source of diseases—ardent and indefatigable exertions to remove them—coolness and deliberation in seizing the favourable moment for applying the proper remedies—these were the qualities which gained so much the confidence of his patients, that no family which had once employed him ever after dispensed with his services. These were the qualities which rendered his success as a practitioner almost without parallel. In critical cases he was consulted by his brethren in the last resort; and in a profession, whose members are supposed to be peculiarly tenacious, there was such an understanding of his skill and probity, that the bitterness of jealousy rarely brought him in collision with any of them. That benevolence which pervaded his life, was a shield in his professional career. As a public servant and director of the Penitentiary, his loss will be felt by the state—for under his management, more than of any other, have grown up the regulations which governed that institution—and his fostering hand mainly contributed to provide the subordinate inducements to ameliorate the morals of the criminals and fit them for society. These things may be bitter in perusal, but must be sweet in reflection to those relatives who depended on him for support, and looked up to him for protection.

LATIN PRESCRIPTIONS.

It is well known, that during many centuries immediately succeeding the revival of learning in Europe, all works of science were written in the Latin tongue. The reasons of this are many of them sufficiently obvious. Learned men during this period were few in number, and generally ecclesiastics. The books from which they derived their information were written in Latin, and their education had principally consisted in the study of works in that language. We may add to this, that previous to the 14th century, all the popular languages of Europe were yet unformed and barbarous; the dialects were very numerous, and from the little intercourse between nations and provinces, they were scarcely, if at all, intelligible to one another. Under these circumstances, the Latin was at once, the only language fitted for works of science, and the only one

which by its general diffusion and stability could convey what was committed to it to distant countries and future ages. This state of things however gradually altered; men appeared in Italy and France and England, who by stamping the impress of their genius on the languages of their respective countries, were able to give them currency; intercourse between nations increased; the common people became more enlightened, and science was finally forced to leave her cloisters, and mingle with the world around her. She left them, however, with reluctance, and still sought to shroud herself in that mystery which had attracted the veneration of the multitude. Philosophers still screened their treasures from the public gaze; and still affected to reject as arrogant the attempts so eagerly made to participate in those privileges which they regarded as exclusively their own.

From this cause, aided by others which we need not now discuss, the Latin language maintained its ground among learned men, until a comparatively recent period. Thus Erasmus in the 16th century, and Bacon and Boyle in the 17th, published most of their works in the Latin tongue, and as late as the 18th, the illustrious Gregory published his *Conspectus Theoreticæ Medicinæ*. In the last century, however, its use was nearly abolished; Philosophers, Physicians, and men of Science, generally learned to express themselves in a manner more intelligible to the people; they discovered that it was possible to convey their most profound speculations in the vernacular language of their native countries; and at the present day, a medical writer would as soon subscribe to all the coarse mechanical theories of Boerhaave, as he would adopt the uncouth jargon in which those theories were conveyed.

While Latin has thus ceased to be the language of books, and while in almost every nation of civilized Europe its use as a medium of communication is for the most laid aside, there still remain, in the existence of certain customs, proofs of the veneration in which it was formerly held. Students, previous to receiving degrees in the foreign universities, are obliged to compose a Latin treatise on some medical subject, and defend it in the same language; these works, on the finest of paper and in the most elegant binding, adorn the shelves of our libraries, models of the profound erudition and classical taste of their distinguished authors, printers, and binders. But a far more common, and more important use of this language, is that which forms the subject of our present article, viz. the inditing of medical prescriptions; and it is on the advantages and evils of this now universal custom, that we propose to make a few observations.

People are much disposed to think, that it is with a view to concealment that prescriptions are expressed in language and characters different from those to which they are accustomed. The object seems to be to establish a set of conventional signs, whose purport shall be unknown to all but those of the profession; and thus to exclude all except themselves from that knowledge which they might otherwise convey. Nor is it to be wondered at that this monopoly of science should create a feeling of resentment and opposition. But perhaps a little closer consideration of the subject will show that the fault is not wholly in the practitioners. That many physicians do make more mystery than is necessary in writing prescriptions, in order to add to their own importance, is not to be denied; but we maintain that from the nature of things, all technical terms must be obscure except to those who will take the trouble to learn them; nor is there any thing mys-

terious in a physician's receipt, which is not either justified by necessity, or excused by the analogous practice of other professions. It is true that they begin with an R, crossed; but is this more grotesque in its appearance than the Ss at the head of a writ? And when we have been told that one means *recipe* and the other *scilicet*, does not one seem to answer its purpose as well as the other? Well, next comes the jargon which most troubles the unlearned—a series of words, not one of which is finished, and which, if they were, would leave the readers as much in the dark as ever, because of the language in which they are expressed. Now as to the contractions, they are used simply for the sake of brevity; and where they possibly could lead to misapprehension as to the term intended, they ought never to be employed. In regard to the language, it is to be observed that chemical compounds have a language of their own, and that writing them in English or in Latin can effect only their *terminations*; that plants must be mentioned by their botanical names if we would avoid confounding them with each other; and that these two descriptions of articles are nearly all which are generally prescribed. An acquaintance with the terms therefore cannot be expected without a knowledge of the sciences to which they belong. Now what we have mentioned, with occasionally an innocent M, signifying *Mix*, and expressions of weights to be found in every school-boy's arithmetic, constitute a prescription; and after all, we believe that were a physician's prescription placed side by side with an invoice of India-goods, the latter would not be found to have much the advantage in perspicuity over the former.

But while we maintain that the mystery of prescriptions is not chargeable on their authors, we will not concede that this mystery is altogether an evil. That a patient should know what is prescribed for him if he wish it, is certainly proper; and those to whom this knowledge is worth the trouble of asking can always obtain it.—But there is a large class of persons who from a natural prejudice would avoid any inquiry on the subject; to whom it is desirable if any thing not to know what is ordered for them—yet who could not avoid making the discovery were it forced on them by the use of ordinary language. To such persons the use of unusual expressions, so far from appearing like concealment or deception, serves as a means of hiding from themselves those things which it is their object to avoid. The Latin therefore has this advantage, that while it leaves a way open to explanation if desired, it precludes the necessity of any which would be indelicate or unpleasant.

Another advantage resulting from this practice is, the ease and accuracy with which physicians of different countries are enabled to communicate with each other on medical subjects, and to learn the history of the former treatment of those who seek in a change of climate an alleviation of their maladies. We were led in fact to discuss this subject at the present moment, by a case on which we were recently consulted. The patient had, at different times, been under the treatment of the most distinguished Physicians in Italy, France, and England; the prescriptions which had been followed in each of these countries, were laid before us, and from them we were able to learn a precise history of the whole treatment of the disease. The same advantage must have been enjoyed by all the former attendants; but if these directions had been given by each in his native language, all would have been in the dark, and the patient might have been subjected to that process over and over again, which had previously been tried without advantage.

We shall add but one more argument in favour of Latin prescriptions, and that is the security which they afford against the practices of ignorant pretenders to medicine. For a man to be able to write a prescription in Latin, implies the possession of some education, and awakes some degree of confidence in those who employ him; and in a profession where so much of imposition is practised on the credulous, it is good to have some test by which the acquirements of an individual may be in some measure ascertained. A quack may produce certificates, he may perform cures, he may compound medicines, but he cannot write prescriptions; at least he will not have learned to do this without having gained some knowledge of the substances in which he deals, which may lessen the risk to those who fall into his hands. That any mode of writing prescriptions can prevent quackery, every day's experience disproves: but that the amount of this evil would be greater were they expressed in common language, there can be but little doubt: and that custom cannot be altogether bad which operates to check the increase of a race so ignorant, so presumptuous, and so injurious to society.

THE USEFUL ARTS.

Many examples of the rapid advancement of the mechanic arts within a few years, meet us at every step when we trace the improvements of modern upon former ages. In the article of intelligence which is entitled "artificial hands," will be seen to what a degree of usefulness one of the principles of mechanics has been applied among us, and we cannot forbear mentioning to our readers a similar specimen which we had the pleasure of viewing a few years ago.—A poor man who earned a livelihood for himself and his family by playing on the piano forte at the Opera Buffa, at Paris, was suddenly attacked by a paralytic affliction of the extensor muscles of all the fingers of the right hand. Surgical treatment was resorted to without benefit, and looking forward, with dreadful apprehension, to the evils this accident would bring upon his helpless dependants, he applied, as a last resort, to M. Delacroix, an ingenious mechanic, for some artificial assistance. In a few weeks Mr D. made for him a glove, with springs so nicely adjusted to the counteracting power of the flexors, that when put on the hand of the unfortunate musician, it enabled him to play with great ease and as much accuracy as ever. The glove is extremely neat, no apparatus is to be seen, and its weight is very trifling.

We congratulate our friends in this vicinity on the opportunity they will enjoy during the present season, of seeing many specimens of modern improvements in the useful arts, and hearing a clear and philosophical exposition of them, from Dr Bigelow, who commenced on Thursday evening last his course of lectures of which notice was given in our 25th number.

ON CATARACTS.

Previous to the middle of the 17th century, a perfect cataract seemed to obstruct the intellectual vision of those who sought for the proximate cause of that blindness which later investigation has taught us is produced by an opacity of the chrySTALLINE humour of the eye, or of its capsule. It was asserted by some to be a disease of the inner side of the lucid cornea—by others, to be an opaque membrane formed in, before, or behind the pupil; these again were divided into those who believed this new formation to be moveable, and those who thought it to be fixed. In fact the different causes

assigned by those who pretended to be oculists, were as numerous as they were absurd. It is not to be wondered at that this blindness should exist among the ancients, and still continue to exist in more polished ages of the world, when we are told that its cure was entrusted to those mountebanks and strollers, whose boldness, hardihood and obstinacy, were equalled only by the ignorance which accompanied them.

In the year 1659, the true cause of cataracts was first discovered to the world by Rolfinchius, Quare, Gassendus, Ranhault, Borelli, and others. But they only stated propositions without proving them; their discoveries were not confirmed by experiment or dissection, and were therefore disregarded by the itinerant oculists to whom they were addressed. Brissac and Maitre-Jean, by actual dissection, established the fact, that a cataract is caused by an obstruction in the chrySTALLINE or its investing membrane. Taylor, the celebrated oculist of England, coincided in the belief of his brothers upon the continent, and published his opinions and his skill in 1736. Yet we find the learned Heister and Professor Widemann suppose it sometimes, though rarely, to be produced by the formation of a new membrane; and even Petit, Morand, and St Yves of France, Cheselden of England, and the Italian Morgagni, Santorini, Cocchus, Benevolus and others, are of the same opinion.

Since the true nature of this complaint has been known, all opticians have agreed that the remote cause is a thickening of the juices which ordinarily circulate through the humors of the eye—whereby they become obstructed in the lens, and stagnating in its minute vessels produce a dryness and frequently emaciation of the whole chrySTALLINE. Hence the disease is often caused by a local injury or by a long exposure of the organ to the direct rays of the sun or a generous fire, either of which, by evaporating the thinner part of the circulating juices, condenses them and thus produces a cataract. This granted, it appears evident that an opacity of the vitreous humour or glaucoma, and of the aqueous or the hypopium, are diseases of the same species as cataract, and produced by the same cause, differing only in degree; thus the chrySTALLINE being the most dense, the juices would first be obstructed there whilst they pass easily through the vessels of the vitreous and aqueous. A further condensation of these juices renders them too viscid to circulate freely through the vitreous, and stagnating there they produce an opacity of it or glaucoma, and a still further condensation causes their obstruction in the aqueous humor and its opacity or hypopium; and the comparative frequency of these three diseases is as we should judge inversely as the violence of the cause.

The most predominant opinion of the ancients concerning the cause of cataract was that it is the formation of a new membrane. As we never form opinions without some reasons, it may be a pleasing speculation to ascertain the foundation of this belief of antiquity. But as it would be as useless as pleasing, we will only observe that if the operation for a removal of the obstruction was performed, it may be that an emaciation of the chrySTALLINE gave it the appearance of a membrane, and thus originated a false theory—for Heister observes from his own experience, that the diseased lens is sometimes no thicker than his thumb nail. This however is a mere supposition, and as such appears to us rational.

Having discussed the proximate and remote causes of cataract, we are prepared the better to form an opinion of the names which have been applied to this dis-

ease in various ages and countries, and to designate that which is most consistent with the principle by which a nomenclature ought to be regulated. This principle is that the name ought to express the nature of a disease. By HIPPOCRATES the disease of which we have spoken was denominated Glaucoſi. This is derived from the Greek word Glaukos, signifying grey.—This being expressive of the external appearance only of the disease, was gradually abandoned as time and intelligence advanced, though sanctioned by an authority to which antiquity has almost added the stamp of divinity.—GALEN retained no trace of the name of his venerable predecessor, and invented the new term Hypochyma, or Hypochysis.—SHARP and PLENK were too much antiquarians to disregard the authority of Hippocrates, and applied the term Glaucoma to what he had called Glaucoſi;—this being derived from the same word is subject to the same objections, and though the word itself is still retained, their application of it is lost.—Next comes the term of PLATNER, which was Suffusio; this he derived from CELSUS, and though it is expressive of the true cause of the disease, and was adopted by Heister, it is yet too general, and not so applicable as the word Cataracta, which is derived from the Greek verb Katarasso, meaning to mingle together or to confound. This was probably adopted by CULLEN because the disease confounds the sight, as he calls by the same name all obstructions of vision. But as applied by VOGELIUS and LINNÆUS, it expresses a mingling together of the juices in the humour of the eye, and like the rest of the nomenclature of Linnæus, is at the present day most justly and judiciously adopted.

(To be continued.)

REPORTS.

DEGENERATION OF THE PANCREAS INTO A CYST COMMUNICATING WITH THE DUODENUM.

By M. A. DUPONCHEL, M. D.

A soldier died in the military hospital at Cadiz, in February last, after a long and obscure disease of the abdomen. On dissection, the stomach was found inflamed; and the duodenum, which adhered to a large tumour, was inflamed and of a reddish brown colour. At its posterior aspect was an opening communicating with the interior of this tumour, which occupied the place of the pancreas. Not a vestige of the glandular structure of the pancreas remained.—The tumour occupied the place of this viscus, and consisted of a cyst, whose parietes were thick, of the size of the head of a new-born child, containing a brownish matter resembling coagulated blood, mixed with a broken down cerebral-like substance.

CASE OF VOLVULUS

CURED BY THE EMPLOYMENT OF HYDRARGYRUM.

M. Rolland has lately published a case of *ileus*, which he considers to have been occasioned by intus-susception. The symptoms were extremely violent, and the vomiting of fecal matter abundant; leeches were applied to the belly, *vermifuges* [!] administered, with clysters and baths; but all were of no avail. Nine ounces of mercury were now administered in two doses, after which all the symptoms disappeared "*comme par enchantement*."

It is difficult to explain the *ratio medendi* of the hydrargyrum, and it is extremely doubtful whether intus-susception existed: from the means

which were successfully used, we should almost be induced to affirm that it decidedly did not: in the retrograde intus-susception, *it is possible* that mercury might be successful, but certainly not in the progressive: on the contrary, the mischief would in all probability be considerably increased by it; and even in the retrograde kind, by insinuating itself between the intus-suscepted portion and the intestine surrounding it, would be likely to increase any inflammation which might be existing.—*Arch. Gen. de Med.*

Large quantities of quicksilver, however, were much recommended in ileus by the older writers, and we know that it has been employed with success. We were witnesses to a case of ileus in which upwards of a pound weight of small shot was swallowed as a substitute for quicksilver, and the patient recovered. The patient was a female servant in a clergyman's family in the country; in which family we were residing at the time.—*Lon. Med. Repos.*

INTELLIGENCE.

ARTIFICIAL HANDS.—Perhaps the following relation may be interesting to the curious, and at the same time be the means of directing some unfortunate being to an ingenious mechanic, who can actually make artificial *hands* and *feet*, which are a valuable substitute for amputated limbs.—When we recollect that the taliacotian operation of manufacturing new noses, out of the integuments of the forehead, has been successfully practised in the United States, and that palates to the mouth, and even glass eyes, can be fitted into the sockets, so completely as to deceive a critical observer, we can scarcely doubt the possibility of making other appendages, equally useful.

A labouring man by the name of Reed, who had both arms blown off just below the elbow, and who had also suffered the loss of an eye, in blasting a rock at the bottom of a well, made application, a few weeks since, to Mr Doyle, of the Columbian Museum, in this city, who carved a pair of hands, and matched them to the stumps, so ingeniously, that they would be mistaken, at the first view, for natural hands. Although there are several levers exciting a power on the palm and on the back of the wrist, the contrivance is very simple, and there is but little danger of its getting out of order. He is now enabled to take off his hat as genteelly as his friends, cut his food, feed himself as readily as any person, and what is still more wonderful, write his name with correctness and facility. His clothing is now kept together by small hooks, instead of buttons, which he manages with such adroitness, as to dress and undress himself without any kind of assistance. His acquaintance have now the strongest hopes that he will maintain himself by his own industry. What adds greatly to the interest of Mr Reed's case, and reflects an honour on the benevolent artist who has thus restored him to the pleasures of manual industry, is that he was made welcome to the services of Mr Doyle, and left him with a thankful heart and money in his pocket.

HYDROPHOBIA IN HORSES.—Mr R——, the proprietor and driver of one of the short London stages, had a favourite pointer, which regularly slept in the stable with his horses; but a short

time since the dog was bitten by a rabid dog, and shortly after went mad and was killed. A few days after, a favorite stage-coach horse was taken ill; the horse doctor was sent for, but could not account for his disorder; the animal kicked, plunged, beat himself about, and appeared quite mad. The doctor recommended a medicine, made up as a ball, and Mr R. undertook to administer it; the horse was dreadfully enraged when an iron instrument was put into his mouth to force it down, and, while Mr R.'s hand was in it, he bit the iron flat, and lacerated the hand dreadfully; soon after he beat his his own brains out in the stable. A week after, two more horses went mad, and both were shot.—Soon after, a fourth was taken so bad, that he was obliged to be left at the Four Swans, in Bishopsgate Street. Mr R. had his hand cauterised; he has since been to the sea side; no ill consequences are likely to arise from the accident.

THE VINE.—The culture of the vine seems to have become a favourite pursuit with the agriculturalists of the present day. There are perhaps not less than fifteen or twenty vineyards within as many miles of the Borough of York, Pennsylvania, and nearly all commenced within a year or two. Should this disposition increase, and as a consequence, the wine-presses be made to take the place of distilleries, it will benefit the morals of the community. Among what are called civilized nations, the vice of drunkenness has always been found to prevail most extensively where the vine is not cultivated. To encourage our vine-growers, let them turn their eyes to France. That country, though not the native land of the vine, has, at the present day, almost four millions of acres employed in its cultivation. The average production of these immense vineyards, is about one thousand millions of gallons; and the whole annual value of their vintage, about 125 millions of dollars.

MINERALOGY. The coast of Labrador abounds with valuable and beautiful specimens of the quartz family, particularly the different varieties of cornelian, agate, opal, jasper, and a peculiar kind of feldspar, of the sky blue variety, almost exclusively found on that coast. The latter is hard and takes a fine polish. Some parts of it have been cut and manufactured into snuff-boxes, rings, &c. It is found embedded in a gray granite rock. The whole north shore of the St Lawrence, from Quebec to its mouth, and the Labradore coast, appear to present a wide field for the researches of the geologist and mineralogist, which is not generally met with.

EPILEPSY.—A Physician of Triebel, near Serau, has discovered that the root of the common worm-wood is an efficacious medicine in Epilepsy. He recommends gathering this plant in autumn, drying it in the shade without being washed, and not pulverizing it till it is wanted for use. It should be administered in the form of powder, as soon as signs of the approach of the fit are manifested. To an adult it may be given in a dose of from fifty to seventy grains, in a warm liquid. After the patient has taken the medicine, he should go to bed and cover himself well up, and not remove from it till the perspiration has ceased.

NATURAL HISTORY.—Professor Say, of the Pennsylvania University, is preparing for publication, a work entitled "American Entomology, or a description of the Insects of North America." It will be completed in five volumes, illustrated with coloured plates, at the price of five dollars per volume.

NEW-YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE.—Dr Hosack, in his late introductory discourse, stated, that the Infirmary of Edinburgh, the Hotel Dieu of Paris, or the Hospital of London, did not afford to their pupils more real advantages, than can be obtained at the N. Y. Med. College.

SURGERY.—Mr Juif, a celebrated Surgeon in Paris, in the time of Louis XIII, cut through the ribs, and performed an operation on the lungs; his patient did well.—Richerand, a few years ago, extracted a cancerous tumour from the pleura.

SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS.—At the late exhibition of the Franklin Institute, Phil. several cases of beautiful surgical instruments, made in that city, were much admired; they would compare with the best abroad.

TRACTORS.—In the cure of Scrofula, or the Kings Evil, the Surgeons in the Archipelago, are said to have long been in the habit of tractorizing the part affected.

VACCINATION—is much encouraged in Mexico; physicians, duly authorized by government, are engaged in inoculating persons of all classes.

LONGEVITY.—There are now living in the Alms-House, in this city, twenty-five persons, (ten males and fifteen females) whose united ages make 1925 years.—The oldest is 101, the youngest 70.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending November 13; from the Health-Office Returns.

November 6th.—Honora Downing, 3 mo.; Edward Morrigen, 31; Rufus Whitney, 3. 7th.—Susan Jones; Sally Simons; Catharine Foster, 55; Mary Blodget, 57; Charles Barnard, 20 mo.; Mary Everett, 2 mo.; Augustus Niles Tilden, 2. 8th.—John Pike Tappan, 22 mo.; Ebenezer Carpenter, 47; Jeremiah D. Doyle; Rosina Kurtz. 9th.—Francis Lewis; William Haynes; Mary Graham, 51; Esther Bradlee, 75. 10th.—Hannah Jewett, 52; Edwin Whitney, 6; Charles Berry, 15; Hannah Wyatt, 12; Anna Long, 2; John Donovan, jun. 10 mo.; Samuel Smith Wood, 24. 11th.—Samuel Logan; Elvin Clark, 2; Susan Richardson, 48; Charles Chenery, 24; Harriet Strong Curtis, 2; 12th.—Sally Phillips; Jane Row, 45. 13th.—Lyman Reed, 33.

Infantile, 1—Brain Fever, 2—Croup, 2—Fits, 1—Dropsy in the Head, 2—Consumption, 6—Apoplexy, 1—Bilious, 1—Old Age, 1—Cancer, 1—Hooping-Cough, 1—Canker in the Bowels, 1—Dropsy, 1—Jaundice, 1—Complication of Disorders, 1.

DIED.—In Harmonie, (Pa.) Dr Hanson Catlett.
In Charles Co. (Md.) Dr Charles Smoot.
In Hartford, (Conn.) Dr Isaac Bull, æt. 84.

Notice.

A PHYSICIAN about forty miles from Boston, with a good run of business, would sell his situation to a gentleman well qualified to practise Physic and Surgery, and who is able to pay 1000 or 1200 dollars down; a long credit will be given for the remainder, if wished. No one need apply unless in regular standing, and able to pay the above named sum; to such an one it is an object worth attention, as the purchaser may go in partnership with the seller, till he is well established, if he chooses. Inquire of Dr Thaddeus Spalding, South Reading, or direct a line to Walter Dorsey, Ashby, post-paid. November 16, 1824. 3w.

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BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1824.

No. 28.

OBSERVATIONS.

ON THE PATHOLOGY OF SCROFULOUS DISEASES, WITH A VIEW TO THEIR PREVENTION.

By W. P. ALISON, M. D.

Dr Alison is of opinion that too much attention has been given to the circumstances of hereditary contamination and the influence of climate, and too little to the amount of effect produced by other circumstances. The agency of cold in producing disease is not by any means striking in those most exposed to it, but in those whose constitutions are in such a state as to favour its operation. Thus, persons in the country, exposed to all the vicissitudes of the weather, as they have robust frames, so they suffer less than the debilitated inhabitants of large towns. He calculates that cold is "intimately concerned in the production of fully two thirds of the deaths among the lower orders, in a great town in this climate." The application of these remarks is made as follows:

"Now, what is true of the production of disease in general by exposure to cold, seems to be true of the production of scrofulous diseases in particular; but with these limitations:—1. That scrofulous action appears to be excited almost solely in the earlier periods of life. 2. That to the production of this kind of diseased action, there appears to be required, besides other conditions, a certain peculiarity of habit, not understood, but manifestly hereditary; and 3. That the constitutional debility, which disposes to scrofulous disease from cold, appears to be more permanent and habitual than that which disposes to the other diseases resulting from this cause.

"The term disease of debility is much too vague for scientific discussion. It is easy to see that it is not every one who is weakened, even permanently, that becomes thereby disposed to take on scrofulous disease, nor every one who possesses considerable bodily strength that escapes; but if it appear, on careful inquiry, that, of a given number of persons, previously weakened by other causes, a much larger proportion becomes affected with some form of scrofula, than of an equal number not so weakened, but otherwise similarly circumstanced, we are entitled to conclude that, in many cases, the scrofulous tendency depends in part on, or is much increased by, a state of general debility: and it is probably only in so far as it depends on this cause that it is remediable."

THE RECENT PROGRESS OF PHYSIOLOGY.

In the department of Physiology, we find little on which to congratulate ourselves. It would be unreasonable, indeed, to expect that each short period that intervenes between these Historical Retrospects should give birth to any brilliant discovery; but what we lament is, to perceive the danger which physiology at present runs of being brought into utter disrepute, from the manner in which it is cultivated by our neighbours, who seem unable to discover that the multiplication of experiments, without

some rational object, can never contribute to the advancement of science. Too many of these which we find recorded in the foreign Journals relate to matters of mere curiosity, while others concern facts which we know sufficiently well without any fresh illustration.—But the French will not believe that we see with our eyes, or hear with our ears, unless it be proved by experiment. Thus a rage for experiments is the prevailing mania, and every youth who would acquire a name gets him a supply of dogs, cats, rabbits, and guinea pigs, in order to ascertain—no matter what. "Voici un chien, qu'est ce qu'il faut faire." Accident or the whim of the moment seems often to dictate the particular cruelty to which the animal is to be subjected, and the experiments are forthwith detailed with all possible minuteness of description, and all the affectation of scientific precision.—The next step towards becoming a physiologist of repute is to lay this account before the Institute, a committee of which is appointed to report upon it, and accordingly do report, that it is very clever and very learned; that the author is an ornament to science and an honour to France. Those who are acquainted with the aspect which experimental physiology has lately assumed in that country, will be sensible that this picture is not too highly coloured: indeed, it is quite extraordinary to see with what facility the approbation of various learned bodies in Paris has recently been bestowed upon dissertations the most directly contradictory of each other. We beg not to be misunderstood; it is not to well-directed experiments, instituted to ascertain important objects, that we object, but only to such as we have above alluded to. Viewing the matter in this light, our readers will excuse us if we decline to recapitulate the discoveries recently made by slicing away portions of the brain and cerebellum,—the mode of investigating the functions of the nervous system at present in fashion.

ON BATHING.

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer,
By the AUTHOR.

Every thing which relates to health is interesting, and we hope the remarks which are about to be offered upon the subject of *Bathing*, which in so remarkable a degree contributes to the improvement of health and the prevention of disease, will not be unworthy of public attention.—The subject is interesting to the aged and to the young—to the valetudinarian and to the man of health—to the male and to the female.—All, indeed, may find it a source of pleasure and delight, as well as a means of preserving the choicest of blessings, without which life is not worth possessing.

Bathing, hitherto, has not been so common as we could wish, and its principles and practice have either not been well understood, or else neglected and misapplied. We shall therefore enumerate the most important variety of Baths, and make such observations as may enable those who are in the habit, from a conviction of their utility, of employing them either for health or

pleasure, to do it without the hazard of injuring their health or destroying their lives.

1. COLD BATH. This possesses the ordinary temperature of the atmosphere, and generally varies from 32 to 65 deg. of Fahrenheit's thermometer. It is the most easily procured, and in the summer season, in this climate, most generally adopted. It is important, however, that individuals should be particular in using this bath, as it often happens from an injudicious indulgence, severe, and sometimes fatal effects are produced. Persons should never enter the water, unless some degree of perspiration exists upon the surface of the body, and it is a very pernicious error, that those who have been made warm by exercise, should cool themselves before entering the bath. Dr Currie observes, that, "persons heated and beginning to sweat, often think it necessary to wait on the edge of the bath till they are perfectly cooled; and then plunging into the water, feel a sudden chillness that is alarming and dangerous. In such cases the injury is imputed to going into the water too warm, when in truth it arises from going in too cold. But though it be perfectly safe to go into the cold bath in the early stages of exercise, nothing is more dangerous than this practice, after exercise has produced profuse sweating and terminated in languor and fatigue; because in these circumstances the heat is not only sinking rapidly, but the system parts more easily with the portions that remain."

It is well to bathe early in the morning, or late in the evening, but the best time, perhaps, is about two hours before dinner. We should never bathe directly after taking a meal, nor on the contrary when the stomach is empty. For want of this last precaution, the writer of these observations, a few years since, was in imminent danger of losing his life. It will be sufficient to take a little food, or a tumbler of water, just before bathing, in order to preserve the stomach against the effects, which a too sudden impression is likely to produce. Recently, when going to bathe in the sea, I have been in the habit of drinking a glass or two of sea water just before bathing, with obvious benefit. We should remain but a short time in the water, and one single, sudden immersion, remaining under the water two or three minutes, is preferable to repeated plunges, especially in fresh water. When sea-water is used, we may remain longer to receive its good effects—employing friction for some time upon the surface of the body. Two or three baths a week are sufficient. How often do we see boys, who might well be called *amphibious*, enter the water two or three times daily, and continue for hours, at the expense of their health! Parents should attend to this subject. On leaving the bath, the skin should be wiped dry with a coarse towel, and exercise should follow, till the system becomes agreeably warm.

The following rules, then, are to direct our practice.

1. Never enter the bath, unless the body is agreeably warm, or a perspiration upon the surface.

2. Bathe in the former part of the day, or late in the evening.

3. Never bathe directly after a full meal, nor while the stomach is empty.

4. Remain in the water but a few minutes, and in fresh water never take but a single immersion.

5. Two or three times a week is as often as one ought to bathe.

6. On leaving the bath, the skin should be wiped dry with a coarse towel—and

7. Exercise, in a small degree, should always succeed.

2. **SHOWER BATH.** This is an eligible mode of receiving a bath, and may be used freely, and is the most easily modified and adapted to the circumstances of those who employ it. It may be made warm or cold as is most agreeable. It may be taken in the morning, on rising from bed, recollecting that some light food should first be received into the stomach. The body must be rubbed shortly after using it.

3. **TEPID BATH.** This should be prepared at about 80 or 86 degrees, and may be indulged in oftener and longer than any other.

4. **HOT BATH.** This is generally prepared from 90 to 98 degrees, which is about the temperature of the blood; 94 will, probably, be most agreeable. When a thermometer cannot be readily procured, the water on entering the bath, should be made of such a temperature as to feel agreeable to the arm, or part of the body usually covered, and it may afterwards be raised at pleasure. That temperature is the best which occasions the most pleasurable sensations. The proper time for using this bath is an hour or two before dinner. "It may sometimes be allowable to take a warm bath before breakfast—and sometimes in the evening; particularly after travelling in hot weather and dusty roads; but on most occasions the forenoon, after the morning meal is digested, is the best part of the day for bathing, whether cold or warm." We may bathe once, twice, or three times a week, and remain in the bath from a quarter of an hour to an hour. Exercise, as in cold bathing, should precede and follow the warm bath.

In the summer season the warm bath will be found the greatest luxury. In warm latitudes it is also employed in preference to any other, throughout the season; and we confess, after being exposed to the heat of a vertical sun, and almost exhausted by its influence, we know nothing more refreshing and delightful, and we have enjoyed it to our heart's content.

We shall say nothing of bathing as it relates to the relief and cure of disease, as those who employ it for this purpose, should do it under the direction of some skilful physician. Neither should we speak of it in reference to personal cleanliness, as those who are indifferent to this subject are hardly entitled to our regard.—The connexion, too, between physical and moral purity, is so obvious, and so generally admitted, that one of the English poets has said,

"E'en from the body's purity, the mind
Receives a secret, sympathetic aid."

Go, then, we would say to the man of health, go, and enjoy the luxury of a bath. To the young, receive health of body and vigour of mind. To the old, receive a glowing consciousness of a new existence, as if you were just be-

ginning to live; and to the valetudinarian, dissipate ennui and disease—renovate health and pleasure—rid yourself of anxiety and distress—and feel that a single hour in the warm bath, is worth a "world of happy days." M. D.

NOTE. For more ample information upon this subject, we would refer to Dr Coffin's Discourses on Bathing, to which we feel indebted for some of the remarks in the present paper, and which we recommend to all who are in the habit of using the bath; especially females.

STROKES OF LIGHTNING.

When a person is struck by lightning, strip the body, and throw buckets-full of cold water over it for ten or fifteen minutes; let continued frictions and inflations of the lungs be also practised; let gentle shocks of electricity be made to pass through the chest, when a skilful person can be procured to apply it; and apply blisters to the breast.

ON CATARACTS.

(Concluded from page 111.)

With regard to the early and diagnostic symptoms of cataract, they are probably familiar to all. Their advance is sometimes rapid, and sometimes slow—and indicated by appearances various and unimportant; for after the vision is so much obstructed that the patient cannot distinguish colours, then the cataract is mature, and may easily be known without reference to the symptoms of its progress. Its characters are so distinct and peculiar, that it may be clearly distinguished from any other disease. The glaucoma and atmaurosis most resemble it—but whilst these are removed from the pupil, the cataract is situated close behind it; the pearl colour too is peculiar to the latter.

When the cataract is formed in the eye, it cannot be removed by medicine, notwithstanding the bold assertion of Hovius, who audaciously declared that he could cure the most inveterate cataract without the assistance of surgery.

Cataracts which require the pain and danger of an operation for their removal, are of three kinds. The first is called milky, and is fluid—the third is solid—the second is of an intermediate consistence. These all demand the same treatment, and are equally subject to the control of the surgeon, though the systematic Monro has asserted that operations on those which are milky, always fail. The most ancient operation is that called *Couching*. The operation of *Extraction* was first proposed and practised by M. Daviel of Paris, in 1737. Previous to this period it was unknown.—Taylor is said to have extracted them about the same period, and in a short time the fame of this effectual operation was spread over almost all the continent of Europe, except Germany, where, in 1739, it was not believed the operation could be performed. But its rejection in Germany was justly considered as counting nothing against the reputation it had acquired, because the Germans are incredulous—incredulity is one of their national characteristics. If, as is the fact, there is now among them much infidelity in our holy religion, we may easily imagine how reluctantly they would accede to any improvement in Surgery which is without the sanction of divinity.

With regard to the result of *Couching* and *Extraction*, they are both equally permanent, when fully successful, and the latter too permanent when it fails to give relief. It is singular that prejudice should so to-

tally tyrannise over the judgment, as to induce many to prefer and practice the method of extraction, who themselves confess that it is attended with more difficulty in the operation, and more hazard in the result. It is a standing principle in Surgery, that those operations are to be preferred which require the fewest instruments, give the least pain, are attended with the least difficulties, and incur the least hazard. Yet whilst the most candid advocate and practise the simple mode of couching, many are yet left who are disciples of Daviel—and we presume all have been surprised that Mr Charles Bell, after stating that the operation of couching requires but one needle, and gives little or no pain—and that extraction cannot be performed without a scalpel, a needle, forceps, a hook, scissors, and a probe, and after occupying so many pages of his Surgery in recounting the difficulties and accidents attending it, should at last declare that he prefers this to the operation of couching.

What is termed a secondary cataract, is an opacity of the capsule of the chrystalline, after the humour itself is removed. This requires an operation.

We know not whether an operation were ever performed, which to us appears more simple than any yet proposed, attended with the least difficulties, and yet as permanent in its effects. This which we propose is, to insert a needle of the form of half a solid cylinder, by a longitudinal section, and having a sharp point a little bent towards the flat side of the needle. While perforating the coats of the eye, and until it arrives at the sight of the operator through the pupil, it should have its round side towards the iris; when inserted sufficiently far, we would, with the point which is now bent towards the chrystalline, rupture and tear in pieces its capsules, and then withdraw the instrument. The principle of this operation is, that the chrystalline, but not its capsule, is soluble in the aqueous humour; by thus removing the membrane which separates them, the solution will be effected, and the cataract absorbed. If this should be effectual, which experience alone will determine, it would certainly be an improvement worthy of notice, as it is more simple in itself, attended with less difficulty, liable to fewer accidents, and producing less disturbance and inflammation in the eye than any which has yet been proposed.

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

The practice of Physic in this city has for many years been under the direction of certain rules and regulations, which were drawn up with care, and have been uniformly and vigorously enforced, by the BOSTON MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. This Association has been the means of excluding from practice those pretenders to medical knowledge who have not received a regular education. Greater abuses, we believe, have existed in this respect among our Apothecaries, than have ever prevailed among the members of the Faculty; and it is therefore a matter of sincere congratulation, that these evils have excited the attention of those who are best able to counteract them. We were favoured a few days since with a copy of the constitution and laws of the MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, which has been recently established on similar principles to those of the Association before mentioned. The venerable Ephraim Eliot has been chosen *President*, Robert Fennelley *Vice President*, Ephraim L. Eliot *Treasurer*, Samuel N. Brewer *Secretary*, and among the members we find the names of all our best and most respectable Apothecaries. The following extracts from the Pre-

amble, Constitution and By-laws, will illustrate the object of the Institution.

The apothecary is intimately connected both with a mercantile, and a learned profession. On the one hand, he must become acquainted with the principles and the various forms of commercial transactions, and acquire the enterprise, prudence and skill of the merchant; and on the other, he must familiarize himself with the branches of natural science which are cultivated by the physician.

Medical science has for its object the cure of diseases. For this purpose, the character of the diseases, and the remedies for them must be ascertained. It is also found requisite in the general practice of medicine, that the numerous remedies should be collected, prepared, and kept in a proper state for exhibition. This latter branch belongs to Pharmacy, and is, by the division of the science in this country, assigned to the apothecary, while the former is reserved exclusively to the physician.

Pharmacy embraces a knowledge of the physical and chemical qualities of medicinal articles, and the art of preserving, preparing, and compounding them for application in practice. Of these, the preparation of medicines is the most important, and includes the principal operations of pharmacy. These operations require not only a knowledge of the general principles of chemistry, but also an extensive, minute and practical acquaintance with its details and manipulations.

Since then it is committed to the apothecary to select and prepare the medicines on which the practitioner depends for his success in preserving life and restoring health;—since these medicines are very various in number and quality, and require extensive and accurate knowledge for their preparation;—since also they are easily sophisticated, so as to destroy their efficiency without its being readily detected by simple inspection, (thereby increasing the temptation to adulterate which arises from the competition in prices,) it is at once apparent, that a scientific and practical education in pharmacy is requisite, to qualify the apothecary for discharging the duties of his profession with credit to himself, and with safety to the community.

In order therefore to provide the means of a systematic education,—to regulate the instruction of apprentices,—to promote a spirit of pharmaceutical investigation, and to diffuse information among the members of the profession,—to discountenance the sale of spurious, adulterated and inferior articles,—to regulate the business as far as practicable and consistent with our social institutions,—to cherish habits of friendly intercourse,—and in general to advance the character and interest of the profession, we, the undersigned, druggists and apothecaries, agree to associate together under the following constitution, which we adopt in principle, and to which we will adhere in practice.—*Preamble.*

The Board of Trustees shall have power to establish a school of Pharmacy,—to provide suitable apparatus,—to procure a library,—to collect a cabinet of specimens,—to appoint one or more instructors or lecturers, as may seem expedient, on Chemistry, Materia Medica, and Pharmacy, and on such collateral branches of Natural Science as may be useful to an apothecary. They shall appoint a *Committee of In-*

spection, who shall examine all drugs and medicines brought into the market, which shall be submitted to them, and shall report the quality to the board, who shall make it known to the public, whenever the welfare of the community or the interest of the trade require it. They shall also appoint a *Committee of Equity* to settle any difficulty which may arise among the members in the course of business, if referred to them. The board of Trustees shall elect all members of the association; and shall adopt rules for the examination of those who shall attend the course of instruction in the school of pharmacy, and for granting diplomas to them.—*Part of Article 5.*

Any person, regularly educated as a druggist or apothecary, or who shall have received a diploma from this institution, and shall sustain a good moral character, may be proposed, in writing, to the board, at a stated meeting, for membership by two members of the association. At the next stated meeting, he may be elected a member by ballot, four fifths of the votes of the whole board being necessary to a choice.—*Art. 6.*

Complaints against any member of the College may be made to the board of Trustees for mal-practice and misconduct in the business of his profession: and, if on investigation it shall appear, that he has been guilty of adulterating any articles of drugs or medicine, or of knowingly vending adulterated or deteriorated articles, or those which are otherwise of bad quality, the board may report the facts to a meeting of the association publicly called, when, a majority of all the members of the association concurring, he shall be expelled.—*Art. 8.*

No member shall receive an apprentice for a less term than five years, and it shall be rendered obligatory on such apprentice to attend two courses of the different lectures of the Institution.—*Bylaws, Art. 3.*

Every person who has served an apprenticeship of three years to the Drug and Apothecary business, with a person competent to instruct him, and who at the date of the enactment of these Bylaws is twenty years of age, shall, after having attended one full course of the lectures of the institution, be entitled to become a candidate for membership in the College.—*Bylaws, Art. 4.*

REVIEW.

A Philosophical Treatise on the Hereditary Peculiarities of the Human Race; with notes illustrative of the subject, particularly in Gout, Scrofula, and Madness. By JOSEPH ADAMS, M. D. Author of Observations on Morbid Poisons, &c.

The design of Mr Adams' philosophical treatise on the hereditary peculiarities of the human race, appears to be the removal of prejudices, which have for some time existed in England, against marrying into a family which has transmitted to it any such disease; which object he accomplishes, or rather attempts to accomplish, by remarking the general prevalence of an error in supposing the terms family and hereditary synonymous. Diseases are family when they are confined to one generation—hereditary when they descend from parents to their children. If a disease, although not existing at birth, is afterwards induced without any external cause, this is a disposition; and if induced by the operation of such cause, it is called a predisposition to disease. That if any of these

misfortunes exist in a family, the divine injunction against marriage between near relations is usually sufficient to prevent an unlimited descent—"eum matre sana leprosus sanos generat"—and that human institutions need not extend those which are afforded us by Nature, seems to be the conclusion of the author.

Mr Adams makes several remarks which strengthen the opinion that there exists no contagious principle as understood by most medical gentlemen; and with certain reservations, this sentiment seems to us justified by acknowledged facts. The leprosy of Madeira was supposed so highly contagious, that the Physicians who had the care of the unhappy objects, had never ventured into the lazaretto destined for their reception.—In this place Dr A. spent a considerable part of several days. If diseases be propagated by contagion, how is it that the Dutch escape them who have no quarantine—and Malta afflicted where the most rigid quarantine has been observed? It has been urged that whenever the plague appears, it has always been found that some infected person or goods, or some person from an infected port has been discovered. Let us ask, if the same diligence were used at other times, would not the same discovery be made? In short, is it possible that a commercial city should be ever free from such examples?

The treatise of Dr A. contains some interesting extracts from Mr Raymond's travels in the Pyrenees, on the inhabitants of the valley of Leuchon, a people afflicted with goitre and cretinism, deformed, ignorant and stupid. With regard to their origin there exist several different hypotheses. But hypotheses indeed they are; for no knowledge can be obtained from ignorance, and inquiries among the cultivated are vain, respecting a race of beings whose origin is lost in the stormy night of the first ages of the British monarchy. Yet it would not be at all surprising, if in the subordinate crowd of barbarians who were melted down by degrees among the Franks, there should have been found a number of Alans, of Heruli, and of Huns, who increased the east of the proscribed, by the mixture of their races; and if the gigantic bones which have been found at various times in the valley of Bareges, as well as the skeletons which have been dug up near Maillezais, in Aunis, be really the spoils of the human race, there will be sufficient reason for supposing that the Alans, to whom Amianus Marellinus, and Sidonius Appollinarius, alike attribute a very elevated stature, have inhabited the mountains of the valley of Bastan, as well as the desert banks of the ocean, in those times when the Goths were proscribed, upon the very land of which they had formerly been masters.

We shall only extract the following interesting note to that part of the work in which the author illustrates the fact that connate diseases or privations are not hereditary.

"The extensive correspondence these Inquiries have led to, have furnished me with several other instances of fathers born deaf, whose children hear perfectly. I have also been informed of a single instance of deaf offspring from a deaf mother. It is remarkable, that this is the only female I have been able to learn born deaf, who is married and become a mother. It may be proper to mention, that her husband was as near in consanguinity as the canonical law will admit.

"After carefully tracing the history of deafness in this family, I have learned that it was truly hereditary, having occurred in three generations out of four; though in the last only in a sin-

gle individual. Such is the present result of my inquiry, which, from the distance of time & place, cannot be perfectly satisfactory, without any imputation on the accuracy of those to whose kind attention I am so much obliged.

"I have many reasons for believing that some cases of supposed connate deafness are not really such, but commencing so early, that the subjects can have no recollection of sounds. My principal reason for this opinion arose from hearing, that Mr Stevenson had succeeded in relieving some of those unfortunate sufferers. Highly as I valued the abilities of that gentleman, my doubts on so extraordinary an event induced me to make a personal application to him, when he informed me that he had three subjects born deaf and dumb then under his care, in a progressive state of improvement, to each of whom he politely offered to introduce me. Now it is difficult to conceive connate deafness, without such an organic imperfection as would admit of no relief. These remarks can only be made in the hopes of being favoured with further communications, which, from any quarter, will be gratefully received. If, however, such imperfections are really connate and hereditary, it very much lessens the terror of them, that they are not absolute privations, but in some instances admit of a cure."

INTELLIGENCE.

GEOLOGICAL CURIOSITY.—Within two hundred yards from the road leading from Clarksburg up Elk Creek to Booth's Ferry, in Harrison Co. Va. and within $51\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the latter place, on the premises of David Hall, a company has been for some time engaged at intervals, in boring for salt; they commenced in the bed of the creek upon a solid rock; at the distance of about 24 feet, they struck a large vein of beautiful water, exceedingly cold, and a little brackish to the taste, which discharges itself at the top of a small gum inserted into the rock, about 18 inches high. At the distance of about 118 feet, they passed through a rich vein, or bed of copper, about 4 feet in thickness; and at the depth of about 180 feet, they opened a strong vein of wind, which instantly found vent at the top of the well in a tremendous roaring and spouting of water, throwing up perpendicular columns of that element to the distance of 30 feet!

Although the diameter of the well is not more than $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, it is supposed there is not less than 160 gallons of water discharged in one minute of time! For some distance round this perpendicular shoot of water, plays an imperceptible gas of vapour so very inflammable, as instantly to take fire whenever that element comes in contact with it. The verge of the circumference of this gas is not perceptible, therefore those who are unacquainted with its ignitable qualities, in the act of putting fire to this curious lamp of nature, have found themselves enveloped in flame, and pretty well singed before they had any idea of being within reach of its touch.

The only effectual method is to smother it with a large cloth, which can only be applied when the spouting and flame have somewhat abated. The intervals between the times of spouting are uncertain; it has been known to spout two or three times in a week, and may be seen to spout at any time, by putting down the

poles after the well has been eight or ten days unoccupied.

ZOOLOGY.—The prospectus circulated relative to Freycinet's Voyage round the world, states that the Atlas of Zoology will contain prints of two hundred and fifty four animals or pieces of anatomy, among which, two hundred and twenty seven are new species, comprehending fifteen new genera; and the remainder belong to species little known, or not yet engraved. The text will, besides, contain descriptions of eighty new species of which there are no drawings; so that the whole number of new animals brought into notice by this voyage, amounts to three hundred and seven! The Molusca and Polypus are also represented as forming a very valuable collection; and much praise is given to the Botanical department.

CRANIOLOGY.—Dr Farmer, of Charleston, S. C. recently received from Professor Munroe, of Edinburgh, casts from the skulls of George Buchanan, and Robert Bruce. The original skull of the former is in the College Museum, at Edinburgh. On the subject of the latter, the Professor writes to Dr Farmer, that "Bruce's vault was discovered in the year 1800, when an addition was made to the church, at Rumferline," and that there is no doubt, as to the fact, that the body which was found in it, was that of Robert Bruce.

LITHOTOMY.—This operation was recently performed in Jefferson Co. N. Y. on a subject 42 years old, in the presence of several medical gentlemen, by Dr Trowbridge. The whole operation occupied but two minutes, and was completely successful. The patient was placed on a seat of the form of a sailor's chest, about two feet high, and was confined in the usual manner: the operator sat in a chair. Three instruments only were used—viz. a director, scalpel, and Physick's improved gorget. After the gorget was passed into the bladder and withdrawn, the forefinger of the right hand was introduced, and the stone extracted with the finger.

COLD AFFUSION.—A case of poisoning by opium is related in the Philadelphia Journal, in which the ordinary means of relief had been resorted to without success, when the physician, Dr Richardson of Kentucky, determined to employ cold affusions. Several buckets of water were poured upon the patient's head, and the practice was persevered in until signs of returning sensibility were observed. In a short time the patient recovered. It is observed by the reporter of the above case, that it occurred in June, 1821, anterior to the publications of Dr Copeland, Mr Wray, and others, and that if Dr R. had published an earlier account of his practice, he would have secured to himself the credit of having introduced cold affusion, in cases of poisoning by opium.—Procrastination is the thief of time, and in one instance, at least, of reputation also.

FATAL EFFECTS OF THE ABUSE OF IODINE.—M. Zinck has lately communicated two cases of fatal effects from the incautious use of iodine internally; and a third in which unpleasant symptoms were induced, but they yielded to proper treatment. In one case they were besides diarrhoea, priapism, tremors of the whole body, but especially of the arms; violent palpitations, and other nervous symptoms. The body was not opened. In the second fatal case, the symptoms are not detailed, but dissection exhibited violent gastro-enteritis and other traces of inflammation. These cases strongly confirm the remarks of Dr Gardiner respecting the caution necessary in the exhibition of this medicine internally.—*Lon. Med. and Phys. Journ.*

SANGUINARIA CANADENSIS.—Dr Hendrie has related two cases, to illustrate the efficacy of the expressed juice of sanguinaria, or when the recent root cannot be obtained, of the dried roots macerated in vinegar, in the treatment of different species of impetigo.

DEATHS AT NEW ORLEANS.—The total number of deaths in the city of N. Orleans, from the first of May to the first of September, amounted to seven hundred and forty-four; but twenty three of the whole number it appears were natives of Louisiana. Twenty-five of the deceased were natives of the New-England, and one hundred and seven of the middle and other states;

nine of the West Indies; three of Canada; one hundred and fifty-seven of Ireland, England, France, Germany, Sweden, &c. Thirty-eight were free coloured persons, and 169 slaves. The native places of the remainder have not been ascertained.

HUMAN STATURE.—Mr Hennan, of the French Academy, wrote an elaborate treatise to prove that our progenitor, Adam, measured 123 feet, and Eve 118 feet, and that the human stature was gradually diminishing.

HAVANA.—There are 200 Physicians in this place, not including the Barbers, whose official duty it is nevertheless to bleed and draw teeth. The dead are buried without coffins; they are borne to the grave in what is called a *shell*, which is reserved for future use.

TO CORRESPONDENTS. The case reported by Dr T. shall be duly inserted.

To our unknown friend who has kindly sent us a communication on "Medical Policy," under the signature of "Old Colony," we must say as Garrick did to a very penurious man who sent him a long treatise on the moral effect of stage exhibitions, written on an eighth of a sheet of paper. Garrick returned it to the author with this reply—"Dear Sir, if your arguments are as invincible as your hand writing, they must be satisfactory."

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending November 18; from the Health-Office Returns.

November 12th.—Rosana Rafter: Jane Hyler, 57.—13th.—Mary Ann McDonald, 3 days; Moses Fessenden, 79; Elisha Ashman, 17. 14th.—Matthew Crosby, 6 days; William N. Spear; George Libby, 19 mo.; Mary Apthorp, 73; ——— Bacon. 15th.—Child of James Smith, 5; James Orr, jun. 9 weeks; Susan Grigg, 50. 16th.—John Decester, 11 mo.; George Thorndike, 3; Mary Ferguson; Reuben Jackman, 25; Edward Page, jun. 6 mo.; George L. Stockwell, 6 weeks; Mary A. J. Miller, 7; ——— Houghton. 17th.—Daniel Fitzpatrick; Johnson Jackson, 62. 18th.—Michael Munk; Mary Davis; Samuel R. Allen, jun. 20 mo.; Mary Ann Murphy, 3 mo.

Debility, 1—Burn, 1—Consumption, 1—Croup, 2—Fits, 2—Old Age, 1—Stillborn, 2—Spasms, 1—Typhus Fever, 1—Lung Fever, 2—Marasmus, 1.

DIED.—In Lisbon, (N. H.) Dr Wm. Merrill, æt. 23. In Norwich, (Conn.) Dr George Tisdale, æt. 49. In Bedford, (Conn.) Dr William Wallace. In Canaan, (N. H.) Dr Charles Plastringe. In Colchester, (Conn.) Dr Zenas Strong, æt. 60.

Notice.

A PHYSICIAN about forty miles from Boston, with a good run of business, would sell his situation to a gentleman well qualified to practise Physic and Surgery, and who is able to pay 1000 or 1200 dollars down; a long credit will be given for the remainder, if wished. No one need apply unless in regular standing, and able to pay the above named sum; to such an one it is an object worth attention, as the purchaser may go in partnership with the seller, till he is well established, if he chooses. Inquire of Dr Thaddeus Spalding, South Reading, or direct a line to Walter Dorsey, Ashby, post-paid. November 16, 1824. 3w.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER:

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PRINTING, IN ALL ITS BRANCHES, NEATLY EXECUTED AT THIS OFFICE.

OBSERVATIONS.

SUNDAY SICKNESS ;

Or, an Inquiry into the nature and causes of a disease of the typhous kind, which though of long standing and general prevalence, has never been noticed by any medical writer.

Principiis obsta. Sero medicina paratur.
Cum mala per longas invaluere moras. OVID.

Resist disease betimes, if you would see
Your health the same as once it used to be ;
Too late at last we call for medicine's aid,
Our powers, by long affliction, all decay'd.

Doctor Easy, amongst other papers, has given me one containing the particulars of the disease which is represented by the patients as a natural, but which, he thinks, bears the symptoms of a moral disorder. I shall give his history of it in the present number.

There is a disease, at this time, too prevalent in our neighbourhood, an account of which is not to be found in our popular books of medicine ; I shall, therefore, endeavour to communicate some particulars respecting it.

The disease to which I refer, is evidently of the intermitting kind ; and in all cases, that have fallen under my notice, has attacked the patients by violent paroxysms which return every seventh day. It may be thought to savor of superstition to mention it, and yet it is a fact, and therefore must not be passed over, that these paroxysms return only on the Lord's day, on which account the disease is called the *Sunday sickness* ; and the faculty know it by no other name than *Diei Dominici morbus*. On account of its periodical attacks, some have thought it to be a singular kind of ague, especially, as it is attended with a great degree of coldness, though I do not perceive the symptoms of shivering which are usual in that complaint.

I have observed the paroxysms commence at different periods, but generally in the morning of the Lord's day, and in many cases it seizes the patient before he has left his bed, and makes him indisposed to rise till a later hour than usual. A coldness has first been noticed about the region of the heart ; and a dulness in the head, which stupifies the brain, not unusually succeeds ; this is followed by yawning, and a sort of lethargy. The patient is, sometimes, deprived of the use of his limbs, especially the legs and the feet, so that he finds himself indisposed to walk to the house of God. Some, indeed, have gone up to the solemn assembly ; but they have generally entered it later than their neighbours : and even there the paroxysms have seized them, and the symptoms of yawning and lethargy have been so violent, that they have fallen into a dead sleep, even when the preacher has been delivering the most solemn truths, in the most animated manner ; and others have been extremely uneasy in their confinement during the time of service, though they have been known to sit very contentedly, in a play-house, for several hours together.

This disease appears to stupify those who are subject to it, so that, however they may appear

to suffer, they are seldom, if ever heard to complain. I have known persons under other diseases mourn on account of their confinement from public worship ; but the victims of this extraordinary disorder were never heard so to do.

I was at first greatly surprised, after hearing that a patient could not get to public worship, to find her the next day as active as if she had not been subject to any kind of indisposition ; but I have since found it very common, after the paroxysms are removed, for the patient to appear perfectly well till the approach of the next Sabbath ; though most of the faculty agree, that there is a low feverish heat to be perceived during the days of interval, which is called *Febris mundi* ; or the worldly fever. There seems also to be a loss of appetite for savory food, and an entire want of relish for the *panis vite*, which, it is thought, might be of service to remove their disease, as a very skilful and experienced person has asserted, that, "it was more to him than his necessary food," and another has recommended it as peculiarly agreeable to the taste. One circumstance I had almost forgotten, namely, that, those who have not laid aside all attention to the form of religion, if they are subject to the Sunday sickness, generally feel somewhat chill and listless about the hours of secret retirement, and family devotion.

From some symptoms in the families where this disease has made its appearance, there is reason to fear that it is contagious. If I am not strangely mistaken, some children have received the infection from their parents ; and I expect every week to see it more prevalent in the vicinity of certain families who are dreadfully under the power of the disorder. The symptoms of yawning are evident in some, and of lethargy in others, who are not yet so far gone as to be kept from public worship.

I was willing to hope the Sunday sickness was a new complaint, and peculiar to these parts ; but, it seems, there are but few places where the malady has not reached ; and weariness of the sabbath appears to have been a raging disorder among the Jews, in the times of their commonwealth ; though it is to be feared, it never was more prevalent and contagious than at present ; and, I am sorry to say, its prevalence is, and not a little, owing to the late attempts of a gentleman to prove that its effects are not to be dreaded.

In searching for the causes of these symptoms, I have met with considerable difficulty ; but am now convinced, after the closest investigation, that they are generally brought on by excessive indulgence, and feeding without reserve on the sour fruits of the flesh, and the windy diet of the world. Persons, who sit for many hours together in close rooms, with vain and carnal companions, are peculiarly liable to the malady ; and I have observed that a neglect of family and social religion on working days, a great delight in cards and other games, a frequent attendance upon night feasts, drinking clubs, and the circus, are among its certain forerunners.

I am desirous that these particulars should be laid before the public, that they may serve to caution some persons of their danger, and that the skilful may be excited to seek out a remedy for the disease. Some have thought that the complaint is a moral rather than a natural one ; it is, however, argued on the other side, that the patients generally complain of a natural indisposition. What is to be done ? It is high time that physicians or divines should attend to the malady. I have sometimes thought of prescribing draughts and bolusses to those who have told me that they could not come to church, or not come in time, or not keep awake while they were there ; but when I have found them well and active in their business, I have declined it for fear it should seem like forcing medicines.— Had I been sure that worldly business or pleasure had detained them, I should have recommended the clergyman to attend to their case ; but when they talk of their infirmities and indispositions, I do not know how he could address them. Perhaps it is necessary to hold a consultation of physicians and divines, that it may be determined to whom the patients belong, and whether the complaint is seated in the body or in the soul.

MEDICAL PRECEPTS.

Health may be as much injured by interrupted and insufficient sleep, as by luxurious indulgence.

The debilitated require much more rest than the robust ; nothing is so restorative to the nerves as sound and uninterrupted sleep.

The studious need a full portion of sleep ; which seems to be as necessary a nutriment to the brain as food is to the stomach.

Our strength and spirits are infinitely more exhausted by the exercise of our mental, than by the labour of our corporeal faculties—let any person try the effects of intense application for a few hours : he will soon find how much his body is fatigued thereby, although he has not stirred from the chair he sat on.

Those who are candidates for health, must be as circumspect in the task they set their mind, as in the exercise they give to their body. The grand secret seems to be to contrive that the exercise of the body, and that of the mind, may serve as relaxations to each other. Over exertion and anxiety of mind disturbs digestion infinitely more than any fatigue of the body. The brain demands a much more abundant supply of the animal spirits than is required for the excitement of mere legs and arms.

Those who possess and employ the powers of the mind most, seldom attain to great age ; the envy their talents excite, the disappointment they often meet with in their expectations of receiving the utmost attention and respect, which the world has seldom the gratitude to pay them while they live, keep them in a perpetual state of irritation and disquiet, which frets them prematurely to their graves.

To rest a whole day, under fatigue of either body or mind, is occasionally extremely beneficial.

All-healing sleep soon neutralizes the corroding castle of care, and blunts even the barbed arrows of the marble-hearted fiend, ingratitude.

Child of woe, lay thy head on thy pillow, (instead of thy mouth to the bottle.)

The loss of our first and best friends, our parents—regret for the past, and anxiety about the future, prevent the enjoyment of the present—and are the cause of those nervous and bilious disorders which attack most of us at the commencement of the third period of life;—these precursors of palsy and gout, may generally be traced to disappointments and anxiety of mind.

Some cannot sleep if they eat any supper—and, certainly, the lighter this meal is, the better. Others, need not put on their night cap, if they do not first bribe their stomach to good behaviour by a certain quantity of bread and cheese, beer, &c. and go to bed immediately after.

The best bed is a well stuffed and well curled horse-hair mattress, six inches thick at the head, and gradually diminishing to three; on this another mattress five or six inches in thickness; these should be unpicked and exposed to the air, once every year. An elastic horse-hair mattress is incomparably the most pleasant, as well as the most wholesome bed.

Bed rooms should be thoroughly ventilated by leaving both the window and the door open every day when the weather is not cold or damp, during which the bed should remain unmade, and the clothes be taken off and spread out for an hour at least, before the bed is made again.

A fire in the bed room is sometimes indispensable, but not as usually made; it is commonly lighted only just before bed time, and prevents sleep by the noise it makes.

A fire should be lighted about three or four hours before, and so managed that it may burn entirely out half an hour before you go to bed,—then the air of the room will be comfortably warmed, and certainly more fit to receive an invalid who has been sitting all day in a parlour as hot as an oven, than a damp chamber that is as cold as a well.

SPIRIT OF AMMONIA.

Ammonia is often found successful in preventing the effects of the bite of venomous animals. When travelling in the north of England, Dr Leslie stopped to give assistance to a poor man, who, having laid down on the grass to sleep, had been bitten. From experience of the beneficial effects of ammonia in India, in cases of the bites of different snakes, Dr Leslie procured some spirit of hartshorn, and gave about a drachm of it, mixed with about half an ounce of gin and a little water. The effect was very sudden. In ten or fifteen minutes the patient's eyes became brighter, his pulse fuller and stronger, and his countenance altogether more cheerful; and by a repetition of the same remedy, in about the space of an hour and a half, he appeared perfectly recovered. Another dose was left to be taken at ten o'clock at night, and in the morning he said he was quite well, except a little numbness and weakness of the head; the day after, he returned to his work.

In the second volume of the Asiatic Researches, six cases are related in which the volatile alkali has been successful. They were selected from a number which had come to the author's knowledge, who adds, "that he never knew an

instance of volatile alkali failing in its effects, where the patient has been able to swallow it." He at the same time says, "that it does not act so much as a specific in destroying the quality of the poison, as by counteracting the effect on the system, by stimulating the fibres, and preserving that irritability which it tends to destroy." Dr Temple also recommends the caustic volatile alkali, or *spiritus ammoniæ succinatus* to be administered every five minutes; but in most cases the following will be found to be the best mode of administration:—Make a mixture of four ounces of almond emulsion, and two drachms of water of ammonia: let the patient take two large table-spoonsful every hour.

MORAL CAUSES OF EPIDEMICS.

No. I.

Moral causes not only add malignity to epidemics, but are sufficient to produce them independently of those physical, external circumstances, which act immediately on the corporeal system. Though the latter aid the prevalence of disease, they are but secondary to those that affect the mind;—keep a man's spirits up and he will enjoy perfect health in the midst of the worst of those nuisances which are too often supposed to be the sole cause of epidemics—but put that man in a palace, and let GRIEF or DESPONDENCY or FEAR harass him, and there is no easier victim to the least morbid influence that may chance to float in the atmosphere of his dwelling.

There is scarcely an individual to whom it has not at some time occurred that mental distress debilitates the body and increases any impending danger; but it has occurred as one of those true but transient ideas, which pass through the mind comparatively unnoticed, and almost without a consciousness that they exist there. Even in those scenes painted by the imagination, where the incidents of the story are meant to resemble those which are daily occurring in real life, we find that affections of the mind are always represented as exercising a powerful influence over the physical faculties. Thus Lady Clancare, who believed not in infection, but kept her imagination for her books, is represented as enjoying an undisturbed flow of health whilst she directed old Larrey Toole how to whitewash his hut, and calmly and fearlessly carried food and medicine to her tenants, though the poor wretches were just dying of typhus. There is not a traveller who has not been reminded of this influence whenever he has met with difficulties that were to be surmounted, and dangers that were to be braved, before he could reach the point it was his ambition to attain;—thus whilst creeping fearfully among the Crottes of Mortanvert, he always finds the second less formidable than the first, and the danger always to diminish in proportion to the confidence he acquires; it has been thrown, too, most forcibly on his mind, when visiting the Goblins at Paris he has gazed with unbounded admiration on that which represents Napoleon boldly touching the sores of the sick in Egypt to inspire courage and confidence in his soldiers;—and who is there that has not been reminded of it by the unexampled fortitude of Desgenettes, who scorning the fears he saw rapidly unmanning the spirit of the army at Cairo, courageously inoculated himself with the virus of the plague. When told that the Emperor and his kindred zealot were equally unaffected by their rash experiment, does it not occur to every mind that it was nothing but their noble and towering intellect, their confident and courageous spir-

it, which protected them from the foe they so openly challenged.

"Barthcz knew a man who had the tortures of lumbago suspended for hours by the influence of music at a concert, and Cardan rendered himself insensible to the pain of gout by cataleptic contemplation of some philosophical subject." The courage and sang-froid with which assassins have often sustained their inhuman punishments, and the coolness manifested by religious fanatics while suffering the most cruel torments, show how much the will influences the physical sensations. If pain and sickness can be averted by mental exertion, why may not the fear of an evil induce it—or a man bring on himself a disease by the force of imagination.

To illustrate the efficacy of these moral causes, we shall refer, in a short series of numbers, to the epidemical character of different and distant periods.

CONVULSIONS.

When convulsions occur in children, they are best relieved by a warm bath about 92 or 94° Fahr. which operates by its antispasmodic power, and by determining the blood to the surface. Should this fail, blood should be abstracted either by leeches, cupping, or by opening the jugular vein, blisters should be applied to the extremities, and an ice-cap to the head. There is nothing more powerful, however, in shortening paroxysms, than cold affusion of the face and head.

The purple colour of the face, in cases of convulsion, is occasioned by spasm of the muscles of respiration, which retards the passage of the blood through the lungs; this symptom may be removed by inhalation of ammoniacal gas.

LUNG FEVER.

Almost every disease under the class of pyrexia, arises from an obstruction in the excretory ducts of the skin. This obstruction is sometimes caused by irregular diet—at others by an unwholesome atmosphere, or sedentary habits, or some violent affection of the mind. The disease called Peripneumonia has ever retained the name which was originally given by the Greeks, and at the present day the lung fever is known by all to be an alarming and dangerous malady. It attacks individuals apparently without discrimination, we being unable to discover any marks of predisposition in persons whose misfortune it is to suffer its pains, or miserably to languish under its suffocating influence.

When any of its remoter causes act on the system, the perspiration is retarded or wholly obstructed; this change in the ordinary functions of the body can never occur, without producing some notable derangement—for if the calculation of Sanctorius be correct, the quantity of matter daily evacuated by the skin, or as he calls it, the "*materia perspirabilis*," is equal to the daily evacuation of the kidneys and alimentary canal. The fluids thus prevented from escaping through their wonted avenue, are compelled to creep out by some other passage, which they sometimes find in the stomach, and sometimes through the medium of the lungs. This last case it is that is probably the proximate cause of peripneumonia. As these fluids pass into the air-cells of the lungs more rapidly than they can dispose of it, there is a considerable collection of morbid matter in these cells, which irritates and produces in them a degree of inflammation, proportional to the quantity collected and the irritability of the part. This inflammation causes pain, difficulty of action, or in other words difficult breathing, and an increased rapidity of

the pulse, which sometimes intermits. The delicacy of the small vessels of the lungs is gradually whetted until they burst, and mingle their contents with the contents of the cells. If this heterogeneous matter be not evacuated, the accumulation is constantly increasing, until suffocation or gangrene terminates the sufferings of the unfortunate. After death by this disease, the lungs are generally found in a state of incipient mortification.

By this very general view of the cause of peripneumonia and its progress to a fatal termination, we discover many points on which our art may seize, to assist the efforts of nature in restoring an uninterrupted and healthy action to the functions that are deranged.

REVIEW.

Researches about Atmospheric Phenomena. By THOMAS FORSTER, F. L. S. London.

Nature has furnished different persons with a taste for different pursuits, and endowed them with a genius to excel in their favourite employment. Although the stream of life is a fluctuating torrent, and intellectual excellence seems to flourish at alternate periods, it would be a disgrace to the scholarship of the age to leave those sciences which bloomed in the spring of time, to have bloomed only to decay. Meteorology was early admired by shepherds and Philosophers, and as a memorial of literary taste, as an object of curious erudition, as a branch of physical knowledge, and an unanswerable proof of design in the wonderful structure of the universe, merits the more refined and powerful efforts of modern investigation. The theory of the formation and changes of clouds has not till late years been a subject of critical inquiry. Mr Forster's treatise on Atmospheric Phenomena, commences with a system of Nephelology. Our English word cloud is derived from the Anglo-Saxon verb *hlidan*, or *Gehlidan*, tegere, to cover; the Latin came from the verb *nubere*, and the Greek from *nepheon*. Mr F. reduces all varieties of clouds to seven modifications, three of which are primary—cirrus, cumulus, and stratus; two are secondary—cirro-cumulus and cirro-stratus; one compound—cumulo-stratus, and lastly—cumulo-cirro-stratus, which immediately precedes the resolution of a cloud into rain.

1. *Cirrus* may be called the Proteus of the skies; it sometimes assumes a comoid form, and thus was spoken of by Aratus, Virgil and Lucretius, as fleeces of wool carried across the welkin in rainy weather.

2. *Cumulus* is a convex aggregate of watery particles increasing upwards from a horizontal basis.

3. *Stratus* is the cloud of night, and composes those fogs and mists which in a fine summer evening are seen ascending in spreading sheets from vallies, lakes and rivers.

4. *Cirro-cumulus*. The beautiful appearance of this cloud, with a moonlight evening, has been aptly described by Bloomfield.

*"Far yet above these wafted clouds are seen,
In a remoter sky, still more serene,
Others, detached in ranges through the air,
Spotless as snow, and countless as they're fair;
Scattered immensely wide from east to west,
The beauteous semblance of a flock at rest."*

5. *Cirro-stratus* is vulgarly called mackerel-backed sky; it portends rain, and is spoken of by Virgil.

6. *Cumulo-stratus*. Several of these sometimes appear in a range, and resemble a chain of mountains with silvery tops.

7. *Nimbus*. The characteristic of this cloud gene-

rally is apparent at first view, and was well marked by old Roman writers. Thus Lucretius—

*"Copia nimborum, turba majore coacta,
Urgens ex supero premit ac facit effluere imbris."*

To these several modifications, all forms of clouds may be reduced.

With regard to their formation, Mr Howard supposes that they ascend from the earth and sea in the form of vapour, courted to solution by the united powers of the moisture of the atmosphere, and the usual temperature of day; condensed by the cold of higher regions, they become visible, and when the weight of their moisture cannot be supported, it falls to the earth in the state of rain, again to be evaporated by concurring solvents. Thus rain may be called the *blood of the earth*, for like that of the animal and vegetable system, it performs regular circulations, and affords life, fertility and beauty. Meteorological Philosophers agree in the opinion that part of the vapour, which in the daytime ascends from the waters and the earth, returns in mist and fog on the occurrence of the nocturnal diminution of temperature. In Cornwall these fogs are peculiarly dense, and are called the pride of the morning. They are frequently succeeded by a fine day.—So, as the heat is diminished on the approach of winter, the stratus becomes more thick, and lasts for several successive days. This gave rise, in the minds of the ancients, whose organization led them to express physical facts metaphysically, to the fable of Phœbus and Python. Phœbus, or the sun, is solicited by Cupid, or love, the vernal influence, to court Daphne, and effect the fruits of love in summer's productions. He boasts to the little god of his recent victory over Python, or the fog spreading his pestiferous body over the meadows—

*"Qui modo pestifero tot jugera ventre prementem
Stravimus innumeris tumidum Pythona sagittis."*

OVID.

Clouds, when formed, continue to collect additional moisture and electric fluid; when both these processes have advanced sufficiently, the moisture forms a connecting column between two clouds differently charged, and restores an equilibrium; this is accompanied by an explosion, furnishing thunder and lightning.

With regard to the usual elevation of the clouds, the cirrus is the highest, and the cirro-cumulus, cirro-stratus, cumulus and stratus, follow in successive ranks; the rays of light from the sun consequently falling in different directions on them, they present us a variety of soft and animated colours. We often notice and admire the beautiful appearances of diverging streaks, bars and spots, which are produced by the horizontal rays of the setting sun; but they may be observed to display nearly the same degree of beauty, with additional variety, when they usher forth the gay Aurora, rising from the bed of the sable Tithonus, as when they throw their painted canopy over the declining car of Phœbus, and mark the place where he has sunk beneath the ocean, till they fade away by degrees, and are lost in the uniform gloom of night.

The author produces many prognostics of atmospheric changes, from the motions of animals, from the observance of plants and flowers, and from the appearance of the sky. Thus, if toads come from their holes in great numbers—if moles throw up the earth in great quantities—if bats squeak and enter the houses—if asses shake their ears and bray much—if hogs shake and destroy the corn-stalks—if oxen lick their fore feet and lay on their right side—or if mice contend together or squeak much, we may expect rain.—When the flower of chickweed expands freely, no rain will fall for many

hours; if it so continues open, no rain for a time need be feared; but the nocturnal expansion of the Siberian sow-thistle, indicates a storm.—The rainbow has been regarded as a sign of rain, for it often appears in the nimbus, before that cloud, weeping in his sable shroud, has reached the spot where we stand. "Bibit ingens arcus," says the Mantuan bard, who took most of his prognostics from the the Diosemea of Aratus.

That there are signs in the heavens which afford sure indications even in *dry weather*, we can say from experience. When, for instance, the cirro-cumuli are thick in the skies, fine weather invariably follows, and nothing can be more just than the following allusion—

*An evening red and a morning grey
Are sure signs of a fair day:
But an evening grey and a morning red—
Put on your hat, or you'll wet your head.*

A concise view of the several indications of foul weather, may be seen in the following poetical billet, written by the late Dr Jenner, of London, as an excuse for not accepting the invitation of a friend to make an excursion with him.

The hollow winds begin to blow,
The clouds look black, the grass is low;
The soot falls down, the spaniels sleep,
And spiders from their cobwebs peep.
Last night the sun went pale to bed,
The moon in halos hid her head;
The boding shepherd heaves a sigh,
For, see, a rainbow spans the sky.
The walls are damp, the ditches smell,
Clos'd is the pink-ey'd pimpernell.
Hark! how the chairs and tables crack,
Old Betty's joints are on the rack;
Loud quack the ducks, the peacocks cry;
The distant hills are looking nigh.
How restless are the snorting swine,
The busy flies disturb the kine:
Low o'er the grass the swallow wings;
The cricket, too, how sharp he sings;
Puss on the hearth, with velvet paws,
Sits, wiping o'er her whisker'd jaws.
Through the clear stream the fishes rise,
And nimbly catch the incautious flies;
The glow-worms, numerous and bright,
Illum'd the dewey dell last night;
At dusk the squalid toad was seen,
Hopping and crawling o'er the green;
The whirling wind the dust obeys,
And in the rapid eddy plays;
The frog has chang'd his yellow vest,
And in a russet coat is drest.
Though June, the air is cold and still;
The mellow blackbird's voice is shrill.
My dog, so alter'd in his taste,
Quits mutton bones, on grass to feast;
And see, yon rooks, how odd their flight,
They imitate the gliding kite,
And seem precipitate to fall—
As if they felt the piercing ball.
'Twill surely rain, I see, with sorrow;
Our jaunt must be put off to-morrow.

It is remarkable that most countries have a proverb relating to the early appearance of a single swallow.—The GREEKS have—*Mia chelidion ear on poici*; the LATINS—*Una hirundo non facit ver*; the FRENCH—*Une hirondelle ne fait pas les printemps*; the SWEDES—*En svala gor ingen sommar*; the GERMANS—*Cine schmalbe macht heinen fruling*; the DUTCH—*Een swaluw maakt geen zomer*; the SPANISH—*Una golondrina no hace verano*; the ITALIANS—*Una ro-naine non fa primavera*; and the ENGLISH—*One swallow doth not make a summer*. A great number of similar proverbs are collected by Mr F. from Chaucer's Canterbury tales, Rules of the Shepherd of Banbury, &c. &c. Whether there is more philosophy or fancy in these maxims, it is perhaps difficult to decide; we must at least thank our author for placing at the end of his

chapter this gratifying sentence—His omnibus ex ingenio suo quisque demat vel addat famam.

Next follow some interesting and ingenious remarks on the effects of atmospheric peculiarities on the functions of the organized system, attributing most diseases to a particular, perhaps electric, state of the air. As this will account for the prevalence of epidemic diseases in a manner much more clear and reasonable than the theory of contagion, the more mature are our thoughts on this subject, the more are we induced to disbelieve the existence of a contagious principle, as understood by ancient and most modern physicians.—We know by experience that the trivial changes of the weather which are daily surrounding us with increasing portions of dampness, and then parching us by the influence of unobstructed sunbeams, act powerfully on the nervous system, alternately depressing the spirits, and reviving the feelings,—casting a gloom over the mind, and giving light to the whole region of the brain. May we not infer then, from analogy, that the animal feelings will sympathize with the more essential and important alterations in the atmosphere, and say—not that the disease of one was caused by the disease of another—but that by the same cause both were similarly affected?

Mr Forster seems to be indebted to Mr Howard for most of his remarks on clouds, and therefore is not entitled to all the praise we feel willing to bestow for so ingenious, amusing and scientific a production. He merits, however, the gratitude of men of erudition for calling their exertions to a branch of philosophy which may be pursued with so much gratification, and withal, with so much facility, for the clouds are visible by all men, and the thunder's roll and the rainbow's beauty are perceived in every possible situation.

INTELLIGENCE.

SINGULAR DISEASE.—A London paper of the 28th of September states, that the inhabitants of Devenport have been thrown into the greatest consternation by the appearance of a contagious disease among the artificers in the dock yard.—“Within the last fortnight several men, who had slightly bruised or accidentally cut themselves in the progress of their work, have become alarmingly ill, mortification has ensued, and seven shipwrights and two sawyers have died. These melancholy events were, by many medical men, attributed to atmospherical influence; but, to ascertain the probable cause, Dr Belle, an eminent surgeon, opened the body of Mr George Nicoll, a shipwright, who had died on the preceding day. In the course of the dissection, he unfortunately happened to scratch one of his fingers, which passed unnoticed at the time. But on that afternoon he became alarmed, as on examining the scratch, he feared he had imbibed some morbid matter. Shortly afterwards he felt a shivering come on, and he was immediately put to bed and bled. The best medical aid was administered, and the most rigid attention paid to his case; but, in spite of all, the symptoms daily became worse, and he died on the fourth day. It is feared something of the nature of a plague has been retained amongst the timber of some old vessels recently broken up.”

BATHS IN LONDON.—The National Bath Company is reported to have obtained the royal permission—(should the plan be realized) to erect one of its grand baths, as a termination to Portland-street, in the Re-

gent's Park. Three of the other great depots are projected—in the centre of Leicester-square, in the centre of Moorfields, and on a site near the banks of the Thames. We are not informed that the King has actually consented to the first of these propositions, but it certainly has been made. The Marine Company, whose chief object is to introduce salt-water bathing to the metropolis, also proceed in maturing their plan.

THEORIES OF PERCEPTION.—The Stoics believed that light emanated from us to the object, and was then reflected. The Pythagoreans supposed a visible principle to proceed from the body. Plato believed that an effluvia passed from the eye and the object, met, and after mutual embrace, returned to the eye impregnated with the image of the object. Epicurus believed in a material emanation.

SOAP.—A French writer recommends the use of potatoes three-fourths boiled, as a substitute for soap.—We can assure our readers, from long personal experience, that boiled potatoes cleanse the hands as thoroughly and easily as common soap; they prevent chaps in the winter season, and keep the skin soft and healthy.

ALUM.—Upon a moderate calculation, upwards of seven hundred thousand pounds of alum are annually used by the London bakers.

MICROSCOPIC OBSERVATION.—The eggs in the roe of a salmon weighing seventeen pounds, being counted, were found to be 11,350.

OPERATION OF LITHOTOMY.—M. Dupuytren has lately performed this operation in a new manner, and with a new instrument. The operation may be called the transverse operation, and the instrument a double *lithotome cache*; the instrument having, in fact, two blades, so disposed as to cut both left and right at the same time, on withdrawing it from the bladder. The sound is introduced, and the membranous portion of the urethra divided in the usual manner. The lithotome is then introduced into the bladder; it is opened, and, on withdrawing it, the prostate gland is divided so as to be cut in two halves, the one anterior, the other posterior. By this method, the vasa deferentia, the rectum, and the transverse artery of the perineum, as well as the pudica, are said to be avoided. M. Dupuytren has lately operated on a child, one year old, in this manner, and no accident has followed the operation.

PERTUSSIS.—The whooping-cough is now prevailing in this city. Its character is generally mild. The best preparation for alleviating the severer symptoms is the following:—R. Carb. Potassæ ʒj. Pulv. Cochineal gr. x. Sacch. Alb. ʒj. Aq. Dist. ʒiv. M. Two teaspoonful to be given three or four times a day.—Occasional emetics of ipecac are always beneficial, and often indispensable in this disease.

YELLOW FEVER.—The recent frosts in Charleston, S. C. and New Orleans, have put an effectual period to the progress of the fever in those cities.

EMETIC OINTMENT IN EPILEPSY.—This powerful remedy has been recently tried in two cases of epilepsy, in England. The individuals had become useless and idiotic, and were completely cured by a few crops of the pustules.

POISONING BY HYDROCYANIC ACID.—Dr Heller, in a small pamphlet, lately published, on the above subject, objects to the use of certain excitants, such as the oil of turpentine and strong coffee; as, he says, they are always useless when the dose of this acid has been large enough to stop the animal functions; and they are positively hurtful when the quantity has been so small as only to produce those symptoms which terminate of themselves; and finally, that, in these cases of poisoning, the only stimulants necessary to be used are ammoniacal or ethereal frictions, the open air, acidulated drink, motion, and exercise.

LONGEVITY.—An old lady in this town, of the age of 86, who had lost all her teeth several years ago, has, to the astonishment of her friends, cut six new teeth within these few months, and, as may be supposed, enjoys no small satisfaction at being able once more to bite a

crust. But there is an old gentleman living not many doors from her, upwards of 97 years of age, who has not lost one of his teeth, and is able to crack the hardest sea-biscuit. What is still more remarkable, he can read and write without the aid of spectacles.—About three years ago we took occasion to mention that there were six persons living within a few doors of each other, whose united ages amounted to 508 years; but the two above mentioned alone remain to tell the adventures of the notable year of 45.—*Dumfries Journal*.

An honest countryman went some time ago to Edinburgh, to procure a medicine for a sick child. The apothecary, Mr G. gravely directed the shopman to infuse the powder in a pint of *aqua fontis*—“Hold,” says the clown; “how much does the medicine cost without the *aqua fontis*?”—“Fourpence,” said the unsuspecting son of Galen, “and one shilling with the liquid.” “Very well,” replied the shrewd fellow; “hand me the powder, I’ll e’en be content with *aqua pumpis*.”

A modest young clergyman was once asked by an impudent country apothecary, in a public assembly, how it happened that the patriarchs lived to such an extreme old age? “I know no other reason for it,” answered the divine, “but this, that *they took no physic*.”

CORRESPONDENCE. “A Medical Student” is informed, in reply to his queries, that the heat occasioned by a blister on the chest, is not very apt to produce inflammation of the lungs, nor is peritonitis the uniform result of a good dinner and a full stomach.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending November 25; from the Health-Office Returns.

November 20th.—Betsey Brown; Susan Lewis; Sarah Harrington, 20. 21st.—Amelia Prouty, 4 days; Catharine Larkin, 3; Bathsheba Trott, 42. 22d.—Margaret Rust; Samuel Bright, 36; two children of James Nash; John Trusdel, 16 days; Comfort E. Paine, 3 mo.; Alfred Vinal, 5; James Lyon, 25; Nancy Adams, 12 mo. 23d.—Henry N. Lincoln, 4; Sally Salisbury, 49; Sophronia Ellis, 22; Eliza Wise, 77. 24th.—Simeon Dean; William E. Andrews, 9 mo.; Jonathan Edes, 61; Emily McFarland, 2 weeks; Maria Isabella Hopkins, 5. 25th.—Ann L. Davis, 16; ——— Gavitt, 10 days.

Consumption, 5—Lung Fever, 4—Stillborn, 2—Infantile, 1—Inflammation in the Head, 1—Abscess, 1—Typhus Fever, 2—Spasms, 1—Croup, 1—Dropsy in the Head, 1.

Notice.

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OBSERVATIONS.

PHRENOLOGY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PHRENOLOGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR—When engaged some time ago in the study of Phrenology, I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with the subject of the following letter, whose cerebral development struck me from the first as a very remarkable one, and the complete accordance of whose manifestations with it served not a little—if not to satisfy me of the truth of the science—at least to encourage me to undertake a very extensive series of observations, which ultimately ended in a perfect and sincere conversion. If you think that the case may be useful to any of your readers, it is at your service.

When I first saw Mr S. he was about 60 years of age, of a short stout make, rather inclined to corpulency, but possessed of great natural activity. His head was altogether of great size, broad in all its parts, and somewhat higher than usual. In the situation of the organ of Constructiveness, immediately above and behind the external angles of the eyes, the temples projected so much outwards, as, at a little distance, to bring them into the line of the forehead; which presented that squareness of aspect, stated by Drs Gall and Spurzheim as characterizing the heads of eminent mechanics, sculptors, painters, and artists. The forehead was broad, and the lower part, or superciliary ridge, projected considerably over the eyes, indicating great development of Weight, Size, Locality, Form, and lower Individuality. These organs, combined with Constructiveness, constitute the essential elements both of an inventive and operative genius. This combination was aided by more than usual development of Number and Tune, and by a very good Comparison and fair Causality.—The external angle of the eye in the situation of the organ of Number, was depressed like that of Jedediah Buxton, in Dr Spurzheim's plates, and the forehead rose to a considerable height with a slight slope. The organs of Ideality, Colour, Order, and Language, were decidedly under an average, and Upper Individuality was only moderate.

This statement of itself would enable the Phrenologist to predicate the kind of intellectual character which the individual would display. For the sake of the less advanced reader, however, I shall shortly state *how* the faculties manifested themselves in point of fact.

Mr S. received almost no education. At a very early age he was sent to school to learn to read; but instead of mending his letters he began to show a peculiar talent and liking for mechanics and construction, of which his parents highly disapproved, and which they did every thing in their power to repress, but in vain. Finding the continual restraint under which he was forced to live at home becoming daily more irksome, as his faculties continued to expand, he, while yet a boy, with a confidence in his own untried powers, which great size of brain can alone give, forsook the paternal roof, and set out, he knew

not where, to push his fortune. On his arrival at L—, after various vicissitudes, he obtained employment in a profession calculated to exercise those peculiar powers with which nature had so liberally endowed him, and by his excellence in which he ultimately attained wealth and eminence. But the regular calls of business were by no means sufficient to afford an adequate outlet for his mental activity. His leisure hours were *most actively* spent in inventing and constructing models of all kinds of machinery, in fruitless attempts to discover the perpetual motion, in simplifying the air-pump, in improving the diving-bell, in making carriages to go by machinery, in attempting to regulate the motion of balloons, and in innumerable other things, upon which he expended much money and no less labour, but with intense delight. At one of my visits he showed me a large garret room filled with the collected models of past years, the whole of which, as his great Constructiveness gave him the power, were made by himself.—His wife used often to mention, as illustrative of his *hobby*, that the first time she heard of the existence of her "future beloved," was one day in passing along the bridge of —, when she saw a crowd gazing intently on the water below. She inquired at what they were looking, and was told that it was "Mr S. at the bottom of the river in his diving-bell;" and she shortly after saw him emerge.

In the works on Phrenology, it is stated that mathematical talent depends on a combination of Size, Form, Locality, Comparison, and Individuality, and that it does not require great Causality. In Mr S. all these organs, except Upper Individuality and Causality, were decidedly large, and in him they were aided by Number. He was never taught mathematics; but, on coming to maturity, he studied them from books with great success, and was ever afterwards in the constant habit of applying them to determine the probable results of such new or untried combinations of mechanical forces as he was desirous of forming, and he rarely failed of obtaining an accurate answer to the most complicated and novel questions.

His Tune is stated as large; and it is a curious fact, that one of his first constructive efforts was made to provide himself with an instrument by which he might gratify it; and he afterwards followed the profession of a musical instrument-maker, in order to gratify both sets of faculties at once. When I last saw him, he had just finished a small instrument like a piano in miniature, but with only *one* string, and upon which he was able to play several airs. It was intended as a standard by which to tune instruments in the country, as, from all the notes being struck upon the same string, it could not go out of tune. This instrument was entirely the result of an analysis of the causes of the difference of sounds produced by strings of different lengths. I saw him when engaged in the calculation, and expressed my opinion of the impracticability of the scheme; upon which he explained the principle to me, and said that he could not fail, and in a

few days more showed me the instrument complete, and allowed me to examine it minutely, so as to satisfy myself of his perfect success.

With a great deal of enthusiasm and power of invention in his favourite pursuits, Mr S. had extremely little of that kind of imagination which is dependent on a great endowment of Ideality, the organ of which in him was decidedly deficient. The "beau ideal," and the glowing and coloured conceptions of the poet, were to him as empty sounds. His intellect was plain, penetrating, and sound, but with somewhat of a tendency to vulgarity and grossness, the natural result of an imperfect education upon such an organization. Language was little developed, and he always felt much difficulty in expressing his ideas. He felt great delight in the practical study of natural philosophy.

The development of the organs of the propensities and sentiments, in Mr S. was also remarkable; but I have already encroached too much on your pages, to allow me to enter into farther detail: I shall therefore only add, that the manifestations corresponded in every point. I am not at liberty to publish the name of the gentleman; but, as I pledge myself for the accuracy of the facts stated, I am ready to communicate it to you, and am, Sir, &c.

DR CARSON ON THE CIRCULATION IN THE BRAIN.

This gentleman adopts the opinion (concerning the accuracy of which, we conceive, little doubt can be entertained,) that, as the limits of the cranium are fixed, the quantity of its actual contents must be always the same, although many variations may occur with respect to the relative proportion of fluid and solid parts. It is obvious, however, that, as the substance of the brain cannot during life undergo any very sudden change, so these variations must principally regard the fluid contents—that is, the relative quantities of blood in the vessels, and of water in the ventricles. Neither, however, can this last be regarded as subject to much change in the healthy state of the body; and, if we thus suppose two of the three constituent parts of the contents of the cranium remain the same, by what means is the alternate entrance of the third into the brain, and its removal therefrom, to be accomplished?—To the solution of this difficulty, Dr Carson applies the resiliency of the lungs, a principle of which he has formerly made such ingenious use. He supposes a portion of the atmospheric pressure to be removed from the blood, at the ends of the sinuses communicating with the veins outside the neck, by the dilatation of the heart and the resiliency of the lungs having a constant tendency to increase the capacity of the veins within the thorax. But this abstracting power, although generally aided by gravity, is insufficient to suck out the blood from the head, except at the moment when the arteries, by their contraction, are ready to introduce a quantity of blood into the head, equal to that which the veins are endeavouring to abstract, and thus the blood is equally circulated through the whole head. It has been common to attri-

note the phenomenon of the pulsations so frequently observed in the jugular veins, to the impulse communicated to them by the contiguous arteries; but, according to the view just given, a very different explanation presents itself: for, as it is contended that the arteries convey the blood to the head in synchronous jets, and that at the same instant, and then only, the veins are enabled to abstract it, so it is obvious that a succession of currents must pass through the veins, whose alternate dilatation and collapse give rise to the phenomena in question.

These views, as well as those of Dr Kelly above alluded to, suppose the quantity of blood within the cranium to continue always the same, while the other contents remain unaltered. We now come to a different proposition. It is generally admitted that, in particular diseases, the substance of the brain is more or less wasted; and this must give rise to an increase of one or both of the other contents of the encephalon,—probably, for the most part, to the latter. Supposing the blood to be increased in quantity, it is obvious that there must be a limit to this accumulation, as the vessels cannot be supposed capable of unlimited distention. Now, the object of Dr Carson is to show that the use of the ventricles is to guard against this danger, by affording receptacles for water, by which the space that would otherwise be a void is conveniently filled up, without rendering it necessary for the vessels to become too much enlarged.

“On the dissection of bodies reduced to great emaciation by disease,” says Dr Carson, “the vessels of the head are found to be turgid, the substance of the brain to be soft and to contain an unusual quantity of blood, and the ventricles to be greatly distended with water. Sometimes, in such cases, the quantity of water contained in the ventricles is very considerable; ten ounces is by no means uncommon. Suppose there had existed no receptacles for water, such as the ventricles, and the brain to have been wasted to that degree by which room was afforded for the admission of ten ounces of water into the encephalon, the blood-vessels of the head must necessarily have been loaded with ten ounces of blood, in addition to the quantity which they already possessed, and by which they appear to have been already too much distended. Long before they could have been distended to the capacity necessary for the admission of so great a quantity of blood, their coats must have given way, and a fatal hemorrhage ensued; or, at all events, they must have been too much surcharged for the performance of their functions. Hence, we readily perceive the important uses of the ventricles. By becoming the receptacle of a mild fluid, they, in certain circumstances prevent the blood-vessels from being over distended. By their greater or less expansion, they become the grand regulators of the circulation of the blood through the head. Water in the ventricles, in such circumstances, instead of being considered a disease, is in reality the great remedy provided by nature for the preservation of life, in situations in which it could not otherwise exist. It is the defence set up by nature for the protection of the breaches or weak points which may exist in this part of her works.

“The ventricles of the brain, in consequence of their irregular course, are admirably situated for enabling the substance of the brain to assume

that variety of position necessary, as circumstances alter, to give due support to the vessels of the head, without sustaining at any point a disproportionate distention. But, to perceive this sufficiently the brain itself must be examined.”

These views of the subject appear to us highly interesting and satisfactory. We think it is extremely probable that, when any portion of the brain is removed, it may give rise to synchronous and corresponding distensions of the blood-vessels; and that these, being thus distended to a certain extent, and for a certain time, may relieve themselves by serous effusion into the ventricles. So, on the contrary, if the quantity of the solid substance of the brain be increased, little water will be found in the ventricles; the space assigned to the blood-vessels is encroached upon, it may be, to such an extent as not to leave sufficient room for its circulation; hence, though unable to gain admission, the blood is driven to the external parts of the head, and gives rise to that redness of the face and appearance of fulness about the head, which characterizes those predisposed to apoplectic seizures.

COMMON TYPHUS FEVER.

Typhus principally attacks those of weak lax fibres; those who lead a sedentary life, and neglect proper exercise; those who study much; and those who indulge freely in enervating liquors: also those who are weakened from not using a quantity of nutritive food, proportionable to the fatigue they daily undergo; hence it is very prevalent among the poor. It is often generated in jails, hospitals, transport and prison ships, ill-constructed and crowded barracks, workhouses, and the ill-ventilated apartments of the indigent. It is also to be met with very frequently in the damp and dirty cellars of the poorer class of manufacturers in large towns.

TO PREVENT AND DESTROY THE MEPHITISM OF PLASTERED WALLS.

Wherever a number of people are assembled, either in health or sickness, the walls become insensibly impregnated with infectious exhalations. Currents of air, when admitted, sweep and cleanse the atmosphere, but do not carry away the miasmata concealed in the porosity of the walls, which retain the infectious humidity of the perspiration of bodies, gradually condensing on their surface. Quick lime may be substituted to destroy such mephitism of walls, and also to prevent the evil. The most infected tans and sieves lose their smell, when mixed with the whiting or size of lime. Lime enters white washing, and may become the principal substance of it, by substituting it for Spanish white. When made the principal ingredient of white-washing, it will prevent walls from being impregnated with infectious miasmata. The addition of milk and oil are requisite, for lime has no adhesion on walls, nor can a body or substance be given to the layer. The slightest rubbing with a pencil brush will rub it off and leave the wall naked.—The cheesy part of the milk, with the addition of oil, which makes a soapy body with lime, form, after the evaporation of the humidity, a dense coherent layer, or sort of varnished plaster, which overcomes the porosity of stone, plaster, brick and wood. This wash has another

advantage, that of checking the *nitrification* of walls, which the painting of them in water colours has a tendency to accelerate.

MORAL CAUSES OF EPIDEMICS.

No. II.

Though we look on the events of past ages through a long vista, yet we may safely assert that diseases of a malignant character were more common in ancient days than in our own age. Where must we look for the causes of this change? Climates have not altered, mankind have not become more temperate, or less luxurious, nor is the treasure of Pandora becoming gradually expended. Is it that the exertions of modern philanthropists have been more successful in finding out and destroying the origin of contagion—or is the science of medicine so much improved that its masters are more successful than formerly in abating the violence and interrupting the march of disease? The ardor of philanthropy and the research of the faculty have done much to alleviate the miseries entailed upon us; but these alone are not sufficient to account for the difference to which we allude.

There is another and an important cause;—it is the improvement of human knowledge, the progress of that kind of intelligence which banishes superstition, and teaches us to study those events as natural phenomena which were once regarded as omens of ill. Many distinguished physicians retain to this day the antiquated opinion, that plague is often produced by comets, earthquakes, &c. and we have in our own country a work, that is perhaps as much known as it deserves to be, in which we find a collection of these opinions. Ridiculous as it is to suppose these events precursors of evil, and the cause of disease operating in a peculiar and mysterious manner, they have undoubtedly, in ancient times done as much to promote disease, as those animalculæ which modern physicians have dubbed a pilgrim host, and sent abroad from nation to nation, and from shore to shore, concealed in bales of cotton or trunks of clothing, to curse with pestilence every city that they enter. Persuaded however as the ancients were of the influence of these events, they had the most absurd notions of their *modus operandi*; rejecting these in toto, we cannot doubt the injurious effects of these convulsions of nature, in those days when atmospheric and other phenomena excited in the minds of the common people a degree of superstitious fear, as debilitating to the body as it was to the imagination.—As Philosophy now arms the mind against those groundless alarms which superstition formerly cherished, it diminishes in the same ratio the quantity and fatality of disease among mankind, and renders epidemics less prevalent than in those periods when imagination exercised a more unbounded dominion over all the other powers and functions of the mind.

In addition to these causes, there were others equally incident to the times. Famine was more frequent; and the ravages of war more extensive than now. It is remarkable, particularly in the history of the Jews, that Pestilence, Famine and the Sword, have marched hand in hand. The *idea* of famine excites a degree of horror and despondency, far more debilitating than the scarcity of provision which constitutes it—and that the sword produces disease in the same manner, is seen by the no less remarkable fact that pestilence is always found to prevail most, and almost exclusively, in *vanquished* armies, or among troops whose spirits are depressed by delay, or fear, or despair of battle, of plunder, or of pay, and never enters the camp where tri-

umph enlivens the soldier, or where hoping for battle, or confident of victory, his body is manned with vigor, as his mind is animated by the prospect of glory.

In the history of particular epidemics, there can scarcely be found an instance of the remarkable prevalence of disease at a period when there were not other public calamities to depress the spirits of the people, and urge the poorer classes to despondency. The mere circumstance of poverty does not in ordinary times render the lower classes any more subject to disease than those who wanton in all the luxuries of wealth. It is true they are more exposed to the cold of winter and the moisture of evening,—their habitations do not exclude the unceremonious blast, or their miserable hearths afford a glimmer to temper its severity; but so habituated do they become to this mode of life, that the atmosphere of the streets is as much their element, as that of the salon is that of the more wealthy. These circumstances do not usually produce disease among them, and therefore ought not to be accounted causes of its prevalence when it becomes epidemic. It is natural enough when we see an epidemic of uncommon malignity seizing almost exclusively on the poor, to attribute it to the coldness of their apartments, the narrowness of their cells or the lanes they live in, and the few articles of food and clothing they possess;—but all these miseries have long existed, and yet fever is but just begun to prevail; if these were sufficient causes, why have we not been sooner apprized of their melancholy consequences?

It is we believe a fact that epidemics are but an increased extent and malignity of some disease which has always existed, in a greater or less degree, in the place where it appears. It is even held by the best Physicians of Europe, and with a great deal of reason, that the plague exists at this moment in most every part of the old world, but in so mild a form, that unless courted to expansion by peculiar circumstances, its horrors and its nature are alike unknown. It requires some powerful agent to divest this disease of its sporadic nature, and swell it into a raging and malignant epidemic. That this impulse is most commonly given by those public calamities which depress the mind and fall with double weight on the poor, will be still further evident from a minute detail of the circumstances preceding and attending those epidemics which have been remarkable for their fatality.

DECEMBER.

This, as well as November, is a merry month withal, and better befitting a poet, perhaps, to sing its praises, than ourselves. Here, in New-England, the first day almost of the month is a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to the Great Author of good, for the abundance of the season in every thing which promotes comfort and happiness. Family connections usually assemble on this day, and whilst they fare sumptuously on roast turkeys and plum puddings, they carry joy in their faces and gratitude in their hearts—a joy which the sympathy of those to whom we are most closely attached tends greatly to enhance—a gratitude which the solemnities of the day and the fruitfulness of the season, unite to impress deeply on the mind. But the offerings of praise for the blessings of the season are scarcely ended, when the recurrence of the anniversary of the landing of our Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth, calls forth even stronger emotions—it calls us to reflect on their characters, and thus affords us a moral lesson,—it calls to our minds the motives which led to their pilgrimage, and thus teaches us to appreciate the blessings

of liberty—it places in our view the result of their hardships, and thus excites our admiration, and awakens feelings of gratitude for that tranquility and freedom which have made our *lives* so peaceful & happy, and our country so great & powerful. But with December come not only tributes of gratitude for the bounties of the season and the blessings of our lives, but also for the prospect of never ending felicity; for the merry peals of the Christmas bells invite us to reflections, which though solemn and impressive, excite in the heart a thrill of extacy that is evinced, in every christian country, by rejoicings and festivities;—thus is the month of which we treat full of events calculated to call forth our finest feelings and most agreeable reflections—both to excite, to enliven, and to improve us.

Our readers have been already apprized of the influence exerted by the affections of the mind on the strength and vigour of the body; and might thence suppose that the excitement produced by the celebration in the same month of the nativity of our Saviour and the landing of the Pilgrims, *two events* which are decidedly the most important that have occurred since the creation, would be an effectual barrier to the inroads of disease. They must recollect, however, that too great joy leads almost invariably to excesses and imprudent indulgences, and that the associations connected with the return of these anniversaries, are frequently such as to open anew the wounds of hearts that have been lacerated, and to excite recollections which frequently overpower the enfeebled frame of the aged or the invalid.

We have uniformly remarked that December has a long list of deaths, & often proves fatal to a large proportion of those who are advanced in years. Diseases are also particularly prevalent among children, who are apt to overload their stomachs with cake, pies, and plum-puddings, three most dire offenders in these days, producing not only diarrhoeas and pneumonic fevers in *little* children, but dyspepsia, gout, apoplexy, and all the diseases of repletion in *great* ones. All complaints which result from too rich, too stimulating, or too abundant a diet, are more numerous at this season than at any other, and this catalogue of maladies would be much shortened if the distinction were, on these days, to drink *better wines* than usual, rather than to empty *more bottles*.

Visceral obstructions are frequent at the approach of winter, and should be counteracted by a cooling regimen; ripe fruits, and acidulated liquids may be used with freedom, but a dry diet should be carefully avoided.—Colds at this season usually terminate in lung fevers, and typhus commences its inroads; the clothing therefore should be warm, and every kind of exposure most strictly guarded against; for in spite of all its festivities, December is a dangerous month—its coldness though generally agreeable, is frequently damp and penetrating, and its dinners, routs, and hilarity—those arch enemies of blue devils and potent shorteners of the human visage—often lead to worse diseases than they can cure, to more melancholy thoughts than they can dissipate.

REPORTS.

CASE OF POLYPI IN THE CAVITIES OF THE FACE.

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer,
By DR A. TROWBRIDGE, Jefferson Co. N. Y.

Mrs Overacker, aged 44, of the province of Upper Canada, was troubled with a tumour seven years, which had its origin in the posterior nostril. For the first and second year, it only

produced a difficulty of breathing through the left nostril, and some pain in the fore part of the head: in the third and fourth years, it pushed downward and rested upon the velum palati, and occasioned a difficulty of swallowing, and a small tumour on the roof of the mouth. Various physicians were consulted, and different opinions were given. In May last, she came to this county, accompanied by two daughters, for surgical advice. A celebrated quack first engaged her attention and promised a cure, without knowing or explaining to her the nature of her case.—Plasters to the face, and various nostrums were used, which rather aggravated the disease.

On the 20th of September, I was consulted, and pronounced her case a Polypus, in its last stage, and most malignant form. It had now produced a distortion and deformity of the face, difficult to be described.

The tumour for the last two years had begun to project from the arch of the palate behind; the left nostril grew wide and thick, the left eye was closed, and vision and hearing lost; the nose crowded towards the opposite side, the left cheek projected several inches, all the teeth of the upper jaw thrown out, the forehead swollen and puffy, the features distorted, and pain in the head, which seemed to rend the bones asunder. But at this time it had arrived at its conclusion; from a mild moveable tumour, it had become a morbid disease. An enormous projection from the left side of the face appeared, covered only by a thin integument; nothing of the nose could be discovered, except the anterior extremity of the nostrils, crowded quite on to the right cheek; the mouth was distended, and filled by a projecting tumour of about three inches in diameter, resting on the tongue, and teeth of the lower jaw, which was pressed quite on to the neck. She had constant feelings of suffocation, and frequent hemorrhage from time to time had reduced her to extreme weakness.

By raising the tumour at the mouth, the point of the tongue could be seen, and she could speak so as to be understood, and receive broth and wine; and from this point respiration was sufficient to sustain life. She retained her senses. Desolate and hopeless, she was resigned to her fate; and when I informed her of the nature of her complaint, and that no flatteries from her friends, or soothing words from a surgeon could avail her any thing, and that a few days would close her sufferings, she appeared in an ecstasy of joy. She desired me to dissect her face and head after death; as she had suffered much, and had been a subject for a contrariety of opinions and experiments, she hoped a careful and full demonstration of her case might be of use to others. She continued till the 7th of October, much in the same state, and expired.

On the same day, in the presence of several physicians, I divided the integuments, from the temporal muscle on the left side, quite to the angle of the mouth on the same side; nothing covered the tumour but a thin cellular substance, which was easily separated from it. No facial bone or muscle was found, except the under jaw, which was entire with three of the fore teeth. The integuments were raised, and the whole tumour turned out through the first incision.—It consisted of three lobes, or portions, rising from one root or neck, at the posterior portion of the spongy bones. One portion occupied the

right side of the face, and was the smallest; a larger lobe occupied the left side, and one the cavity of the mouth and the original place of the os palati and alveolar circle, &c. The first mentioned portions seemed to have first occupied the antra, and produced an absorption of the superior maxillary. This bone was entirely absorbed, with the os nasi, planum, malae, &c.: not a vestige of these bones, or muscles covering them, could be found. The tumour was covered with a thick membrane, which formed adhesions with every portion it came in contact with; it was hard and vascular throughout, and weighed two pounds and four ounces when removed.

Watertown, N. Y. November, 1824.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.

In the incipient, and indeed in more advanced stages of this unhappy complaint, the inhaling of the fumes arising from the burning of a composition, the basis of which is supposed to be common tar, has been of singular utility. A Mr. Timewell, of Poole, Dorsetshire, has employed it with singular success—the *modus operandi* he thus explains:—The first symptoms of this horrid disease are generally accompanied by an irritating cough, which arises from the excoriation of that delicate and beautiful structure, the lining of the air tubes, which no medicine can possibly reach; these excoriations aggravated by the cough, gradually degenerate into open and destructive ulcers, whereas the fumigation coming in immediate contact with these excoriations or perhaps small ulcers, it heals them, the cough ceases, the patient gains strength, and ultimately recovers.

The fumes of tar were applied in a case of phthisis in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, of which the following is the detail:—

T. M'G. shoemaker, æt. 20, was admitted on the 14th of November, labouring under symptoms of confirmed phthisis pulmonalis of twelve months standing; great debility, laborious respiration, pain in the side, increased by full inspiration and pressure, severe cough, with purulent expectoration and hemoptysis, sore throat, headache and vertigo, occasional diarrhoea, night sweats, great thirst, bad taste of mouth, pulse 120. He had been treated with venesection, blistering, anodyne demulcents, hemlock, and cinchona, without any amelioration. On December 11th, the report states, that chiefly after taking food, and on being exposed to cold, he has violent fits of coughing, which bring on vomiting. On the 12th he was directed to inhale the tar vapour for an hour, four times a day.

Dec. 13th.—The tar vapour has been breathed twice. He was little affected by it at the time, but thinks his breast freer, and complains of dryness in his throat.

14th.—Finds the fumes of the tar agreeable; cough diminished; respiration much freer, but has pain in the left side. Cont. vapores, et applic. vesicat. part. lat. dolent.

15th.—Breathing decidedly freer.

16th.—Continues to feel his breast much freer. The use of the tar vapours was discontinued.

19th.—Respiration freer since he began the tar vapour, which he wishes to be renewed.

23d.—The fumigation was repeated last night and this morning, but it seemed to be carried to excess, and excited a good deal of coughing,

with expectoration. It produces a sense of heat in the nostrils, with a very perceptible taste in the mouth: reports himself relieved by it, and had less perspiration during the night, but complains of rheumatic pains, and trembling of his limbs from weakness.

24th.—Reports himself much better, but the night sweats have returned. Continue.

25th.—Breathing freer; sweatings continue; cough and expectoration increased. Continue.

Jan. 13th.—Since he came into hospital the pain of chest has been much relieved, and his respiration is much freer, but the night sweats continue, and he has lost strength. Recommended to return to his native place.

INTELLIGENCE.

WOUND IN THE HEAD.—A very serious accident occurred at the weaving factory at Dalmarnock. A young woman, while in the act of combing her hair, had the end of it caught by a shaft turning furiously round: the whole head was instantly uncovered, and the skin and hairy scalp turned round with the machinery; the skin covering the brows, eye-lids, ears, and cheek-bones, was also torn off. Mr James Smith, Surgeon in Brighton, was instantly sent for; in the mean time, Mr M'Arthur put the scalp, and covering of the upper part of the face, into a drawer. On the arrival of the surgeon, about twenty minutes after the accident, Mr Smith replaced the scalp and the other torn portions, and dressed the head. On Wednesday night she was calm, and perhaps better than might have been expected. The head had not been undressed yet; but the edges of the wound on the face, ears, eyes and neck, have become swollen and slightly inflamed; indicating its adhering or growing together. There is a probability that the whole scalp will adhere.—Between eight and nine years ago, a similar accident occurred to a person of the name of Devon. She, however, had the scalp buried, and remained in the hospital upwards of twelve months. Since that time she has been married, and lives at present at Bridgeton.

DEATH BY POISON.—Two children of Col. Joshua Baker, of Woolwich, (Me.) were recently poisoned by eating of a root they mistook for the "life of man."—By the seasonable administration of an emetic, the elder, a girl of 9 years, recovered; but the other, a boy of 5 years, died in two hours after eating. This root, on examination, was found to be the *Arum Triphyllum* or *Indian Turnip*: the great acrimony of which when fresh, is well known to produce on the stomach of a child the most violent, and generally fatal effects.

SMALL-POX.—A case of Small-pox has recently occurred at New-London, (Conn.) The infection was brought from New-York, and the alarm excited by the fatal result of this case, has induced a general vaccination, which, we are assured, has effectually prevented the extension of the disease.

LUNG FEVER.—We can recollect no period when lung fever has been so extensively prevalent as it now is among children in this city. We are sorry to add that its character is far from mild, and its symptoms are unusually obstinate.

CINCINNATI MEDICAL COLLEGE.—Nearly a column of the Cincinnati Emorium is filled by an account of the introductory lectures of the Professors, all of which are spoken of in the highest terms. Much spirit and interest seems to exist in Ohio on the subject of the Institution, and its prospect of success and usefulness is at present flattering.

INDIAN LONGEVITY.—The Florida papers contain an account of a Creek Indian, recently discovered near Tallahassee in that territory, who must be between 120 and 140 years old. The old man was met by Capt. Burch, while engaged in surveying the ground for a national road from Pensacola to St Augustine. According to his own account, the old man was in the prime of life at the time of the destruction of the Spanish settlements in Florida, by the Creek and Cherokee Indians, which happened about a century ago.

DEAF AND DUMB.—We are happy to learn that the New-Hampshire legislature has authorized commissioners to confer with the legislatures of Massachusetts, Maine, Conn. and Vt. respecting the deaf and dumb.

JOHN W. WEBSTER, M. D. of this city, has been appointed Lecturer on Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Geology, at Harvard University.

Physicians must discover the weakness of the human mind, and even condescend to humour it, or they never will be called in to cure the infirmities of the body.

In Leigh's Picture of London, under the head *Middlesex Hospital*, it is stated that "Accidents are admitted at all hours of the day and night, without letters of recommendation, and fevers at all times with them."

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending December 3d; from the Health-Office Returns.

November 25th.—Ann L. Davis, 16; Elizabeth Ann Brown, 14 weeks; William Wagner, 14 mo. 27th.—Charles Otis, 26; Charles Alfred Beash, 4 mo. 28th.—Sarah E. Burnham, 6 days; Henry P. Gerrish, 6 mo; Mary Ann Turner, 26 mo; Ann Sabine Kehr, 8 mo. 29th.—Edward Conden, 83; Francis Maria Peirce, 6 mo; Henry Simonds, 17; Edwin Damon, 18 mo. 30th.—Ellen Rebecca Dalton, 7 weeks; Charles E. Wheelwright, 11 mo. December 1st.—Rose Bowen; Eli Bliss, 70. 2d.—Joshua Brimhall; William Coleman, 17; Robert H. Spinney, 27; Sally Wilson, 36; Agness White, 7 weeks; John Spry, 3; C. W. G. Graupner, 24. 3d.—A man, name unknown, found in the street. 4th.—Ephraim Howard, 50.

Dropsy in the Head, 1—*Lung Fever*, 8—*Consumption*, 5—*Epilepsy*, 1—*Fits*, 1—*Teething*, 1—*Old Age*, 1—*Inflammation in the Bowels*, 1—*Intemperance*, 2—*Croup*, 2—*Poison by paint*, 1.

DIED.—At Parsonsfield, in the county of York, (Me.) on the 24th ult. after an illness of four weeks, ALEXANDER RAMSAY, M. D. about 70 years of age. Dr R. was a native of Edinburgh, (Scotland,) but for many years past had resided in this country, and was distinguished as a lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology, both in this country and in Great Britain; on which interesting subjects he published a valuable treatise. He was distinguished by philanthropy and benevolence, diffusive and extended, and was unwearied in his efforts to disseminate, in various parts of our country, the valuable fruits of many years labor and study in the various branches of his profession.

It was the opinion of Dr R. that the disease which caused his death was an altered state of the lymphatics of his lungs, induced, as he supposed, by the bite of a rattle snake suffered about two years before his death.

He has left in Edinburgh two unmarried sisters, who are believed to be his only immediate relatives.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER :

Published weekly, at two dollars a year. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

AGENTS FOR THE MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

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Dr Jeremiah Williams, Warren, R. I.
Dr Elisha D. Payne, Freedom, Baltimore Co. Md.
Dr John W. Barkwell, Shine's Store, Twigg's, Co. Geo.
Dr Robert Carr Lane, Mobile, Alabama.
Dr Lemuel C. Paine, Esq. P. M. West Galway Church, Montgomery Co. N. Y.

PRINTING, IN ALL ITS BRANCHES, NEATLY EXECUTED AT THIS OFFICE.

OBSERVATIONS.

ON THE TEETH.

An object very subservient to health, and which merits due attention, is the preservation of the teeth; the care of which, considering their importance in preparing the food for digestion, is, in general, far from being sufficiently cultivated. Very few persons, comparatively, wash their mouth in the morning, which ought always to be done. Indeed, this ought to be practised at the conclusion of every meal, where either animal food or vegetables are eaten; for the former is apt to leave behind it a rancid acrimony, and the latter an acidity, both of them hurtful to the teeth. Washing the mouth frequently with cold water is not only serviceable in keeping the teeth clean, but in strengthening the gums, the firm adhesion of which to the teeth is of great importance in preserving them sound and secure.

PICKING THE TEETH.

Picking teeth properly is also greatly conducive to their preservation; but the usual manner of doing this is by no means favourable to the purpose. When it is necessary to pick the teeth, the operation ought to be performed with due care, so as not to hurt the gums; but the safest and best way of doing it is always before a looking-glass.

TOOTH POWDER.

Many persons, while laudably attentive to preserve their teeth, do them hurt by too much officiousness. They daily apply to them some dentifrice powder, which they rub so hard as not only to injure the enamel by excessive friction, but to hurt the gums even more than by the abuse of the pick-tooth. The quality of some of the dentifrice powders, advertised in newspapers, is extremely suspicious; and there is reason to think that they are not altogether free from a corrosive ingredient. One of the safest and best compositions for the purpose is a mixture of two parts of oyster-shell, and one of the Peruvian bark, both finely powdered; which is calculated not only to clean the teeth without hurting them, but to preserve the firmness of the gums.

Besides the advantages of sound teeth, from their use in mastication, a proper attention to their treatment conduces not a little to the sweetness of the breath. This is, indeed, often affected by other causes, existing in the lungs, the stomach, and sometimes even in the bowels; but a rotten state of the teeth, both from the putrid smell emitted by carious bones, and the impurities lodged in their cavities, never fails of aggravating an unpleasant breath wherever there is a tendency of that kind.

LOOSE TEETH.

When the teeth are loosened by external violence, by falls and blows, or by the improper use of instruments in pulling diseased teeth in the neighbourhood of sound ones, they may again be made tolerably fast by pressing them as firmly as possible into their sockets, and preserving them so with ligatures of catgut, Indian weed, or waxed silk, and keeping the patient upon spoon-meat till they are firm. When loose teeth are owing

to tartar, nothing will fasten them till the cause be removed; and this ought to be done early, otherwise it will have no effect. Frequently the teeth become loose from a sponginess of the gums, often, but improperly attributed to scurvy. The best remedy is scarifying the gums deeply, and allowing them to bleed freely; this should be repeated till they are fully fastened. Mild astringents, as tincture of bark, are here attended with good effects, though those of a strong nature will certainly do harm. The mouth should be frequently washed with cold water strongly impregnated with these, and the patient should not use the teeth which have been loose till they become firm again. The loosening of the teeth in old age cannot be remedied, as it is owing to a wasting of their sockets, from which the teeth lose their support.

FOUL TEETH.

The teeth sometimes become yellow or black without any adventitious matter being observed on them; at other times they become foul, and give a taint to the breath, in consequence of the natural mucus of the mouth, or part of the food remaining too long about them. The most frequent cause of foul teeth is the substance called tartar, which seems to be a deposition from the saliva, and with which the teeth are often almost entirely incrustated. When this substance is allowed to remain, it insinuates itself between the gums and the teeth, and then gets down upon the jaw in such a manner as to loosen the teeth. This, indeed, is by far the most common cause of loose teeth; and when they have been long covered with this or with any other matter, it is seldom they can be cleaned without the assistance of instruments. But when once they are cleaned, they may generally be kept so, by rubbing them with a thin piece of soft wood made into a kind of brush, and dipped into distilled vinegar; after which the mouth is to be washed with common water.

CLEANSING THE TEETH.

When the teeth are to be cleaned by instruments, the operator ought, with a linen cloth or with a glove, to press against the points of the teeth, so as to keep them firm in their sockets, with the fingers of the one hand, while he cleans them with the necessary instruments held in the other; taking care not to scrape them so hard as to loosen them, or to rub off the enamel.—This being done, the teeth should be rubbed over with a small brush, or a piece of sponge dipped in a mixture of cream of tartar and Peruvian bark. The same application may be made to the teeth for a few days, when afterwards they may be kept clean as already directed.

The teeth are sometimes covered over with a thin dark-coloured scarf, which has by some been mistaken for a wasting of the enamel, but which is only an extraneous matter covering it. By perseverance this may be cleaned off as completely as where the teeth are covered with tartar; but it is apt, after some time, to appear again. When this is observed, the same operation must be repeated.

For the purpose of applying powders or wash-

es to the teeth, a brush or a sponge is commonly employed; the latter is supposed preferable, as being in less danger of wearing down the enamel, or of separating the teeth.

DISEASES OF THE TEETH, &c.

The causes producing diseases of the teeth may be exposure of the nerve of a tooth, by breaking or wasting of the enamel, inflammation in or about the tooth, or from sympathy, when distant parts are affected, as the eye, the ear, the stomach, or the uterus, as in time of gestation. After tooth-ache has once been produced and removed, it is apt to return by exposure to cold, by taking hot liquids, by hard bodies pressed against the nerve in the time of chewing, by the use of a pick-tooth, &c.

With respect to the cure of this disease, no rule can be laid down which will answer with certainty upon all occasions. No remedy has yet been discovered which will at all times even moderate the pain; relief, however, is frequently obtained from acrid substances applied to the tooth, so as to destroy the irritability of the nerves, such as opium, spirit of wine, camphor, and essential aromatic oils. When these fail, blisters behind the ear, or destroying the nerve by the cautious use of strong acids, or by a red-hot wire frequently applied to the part, have been attended with advantage.

When a black or decayed spot appears on a tooth, if it be quite superficial, it may be removed; but if it go through the thickness of the enamel, it will be mere advisable to let it remain.

When a small hole breaks out in a tooth, particular attention should be paid to prevent the admission of air. Tin, lead, or gold-leaf, commonly employed for this purpose, sometimes give relief for many months, or even years; but at other times are of little advantage, and in some instances create great pain. When stuffing is to be employed, it ought to be done in the intervals of the fits of tooth-ache, otherwise it will give great uneasiness. When it is to be used, the whole cavity of the tooth should be filled; and this is to be done with a blunt-pointed instrument.

PATHOLOGY.

Diseases of the lungs and their lining membranes, are so common that we have thought it would facilitate the mode of cure as regards external applications, by giving a short account of a Memoir, by M. Portal, which has for its object some means of communication of the lungs with the arms and the external parts of the breast.—The principal part of the Memoir is contained in the first volume of *La Médecine Eclairée*, p. 355, as, on account of its length, we shall only be able to extract what we think the most important part.

After making some observations upon the communication between all the parts of our body, and detailing some practical cases of diseases of the lungs, showing the intimate connexion between them and the arms and external parts of the breast, he remarks, that an accurate knowledge of anatomy affords a natural explanation of

these facts, attested by practice. Do we not know what large productions of the cellular tissue proceed from the summit of the lungs, pass under the clavicles and accompany the axillary vessels and nerves? The cellular tissue is there very spongy; it penetrates the axillary glands and passes to the superior extremities. A large quantity of cellular tissue from the axillary mass occupies the space between the scapula and the superior ribs as well as the space between the great dorsal and great pectoral, and passing under those muscles reaches the muscles of the back, and those of the breast. Injections, continues M. Portal, afford strong proofs of the prompt and easy communication existing between the lungs and superior extremities. In fact, anatomists can, in a degree, imitate nature, by injecting into the cellular tissue of the lungs a quantity of water. The water transudes from air cell to air cell, and soon arrives at the external part of the breast, under the Axillæ, in order to spread itself in the arms and lateral part of the breast in following the cellular tissue of which we have spoken. M. Portal says, that he has made these injections of water, or by inflation, in a contrary way, that is, from without to the internal parts, and he always observed a very free and easy communication to exist between them. It is from this knowledge alone that we can arrive at more certain data to obtain a more fortunate and prompt result in the administration of the different external remedies employed every day without order or method; and, in short, in a way altogether empirical.

From this anatomical knowledge, M. Portal says that he has derived great advantages, in consumption, fluxion of the breast, and some other diseases of the lungs. He has employed frictions either dry or with the Tincture of Cantharides, upon the superior extremities, under the Axillæ, and along the breast.

He concludes by saying, that blisters ought not to be applied in affections of the breast, in the same manner as in Quinzy, Rheumatism, &c. where they are applied over the seat of the disease. The lungs being separated from the skin by the intercostal and other muscles of the Thorax, and by the two pleuræ, why do we apply blisters over the seat of the disease? From our knowledge of Anatomy, and allowing it to guide us in the application of external remedies, it is under the Axillæ upon the lateral and superior part of the breast, and along the internal part of the arm, that we ought to apply the blisters.

LITHOTOMY.

We have been favoured with the perusal of a letter from Professor Brown, of Lexington, Kentucky, to Dr Stephens, containing a notice of a mode of removing calculi from the bladder, without the use of the knife. This invention, of which M. Cerialles, of Paris, is the author, has been submitted by him to the Royal Institute of France, and a report thereon has been published by a committee of that body, consisting of M. Chaussier and Baron Percy, who with Dr Brown and many others, witnessed several cases in which this method of operating was successfully performed, with very little pain to the patients. The subject is one of such deep interest to humanity, that we have been permitted to publish Dr Brown's letter in our journal.

New-York, Nov. 11. 1824.

DEAR DOCTOR—Knowing the interest with which you regard every improvement in your profession, it gives me great pleasure to communicate to you a new mode of removing stones from the bladder without the use of the knife, recently discovered by M. Cerialles, of Paris. It has been practised in more than twenty cases, to several of which I was witness, in company with Richerand, Mare Montagu, Lisfranc, Beclard, Magendie, Horeff of Prussia, and others. The patients in some instances suffered only very slight pain, or as M. Chaussier and Baron Percy express it, a sense of uneasiness during the operation.

The practicability and facility of introducing into the bladder a strait catheter, recently discovered by some of the French surgeons, is probably not unknown to you. Mr C. employs a hollow tube, three or four lines in diameter, and open at both ends. Through this he passes into the bladder another hollow tube with a forceps at its extremity, like that used by Sir Astley Cooper, for the removal of calculi from the urethra, of which the prongs, (there are three of them,) open as the inner tube is pushed beyond the outer, grasp the stone, and are made to contract upon it by withdrawing the inner instrument. The stone thus firmly restrained in the grasp of the forceps, is subjected to the action of a drill passed through the inner tube and turned with a bow string, by which in a few operations, it is reduced to powder and discharged. I have the pleasure to exhibit to you M. Cerialles' publication, containing the plates of his instruments, and full details of his method of employing them.

THE DISEASE OF LOVE.

It is a serious fact, that a greater number of young girls between the ages of 15 and 18, and of young men between 18 and 21, fall victims to what they call love, than to any particular class of disease, and more particularly in England, Ireland, and America, than in any other country. This is from the force of impressions peculiar to these countries, and of comparative recent growth—the effect produced by a certain class of romance writers. These writers give an obliquity to the young mind, which leads it to destruction. Scarcely has a young girl laid down her 'Readings made Easy,' than she becomes a subscriber to some trashy library, and the hours which, in the country, or in a land where education is unknown, they would employ in jumping about in the open air, are now consumed with intensity of thought upon the maudlin miseries of some hapless heroine of romance; the abortion of a diseased brain. Her *imitativeness*, as Spurzheim would phrenologically observe, becomes developed, and she fixes on her favorite heroine, whom she apes in every thing—sighing for her sorrow, and moaning to be as miserable. She fixes immediately on some figure of a man, some Edwin, or Edgar, or Ethelbert, which she thinks will harmonize with the horrors of the picture, and she then enjoys her tears and her tortures, to her heart's satisfaction. Languor, inaction, late hours, late rising, and incessant sighing, derange her digestion—paleness, loss of appetite, and general debility follow—the cause continues, the effects increase, and hectic fever puts an end to the romance. We

have known a young Irish lady who read herself into this situation. She was, at the age of thirteen, as lively, as healthy, and as fine a promise of womanhood, as that country ever produced. When the Leadenhall street of romancers crossed her way, an officer of a very different sort of troop became her hero. She would "sit in her bower," (the second floor window) and gaze—and gaze—and gaze upon his steed, his helmet, and its streaming black haired crest; as he passed to mount guard, until she sobbed aloud in extacy of melancholy. She never spoke of this 'Knight,' nor did she even seek to have an acquaintance—lest, perhaps, a formal proposal, a good leg of mutton dinner, and all the realities of domestic happiness, might dissipate the sweet romantic misery she so much delighted in. A year passed over—"she pined in thought, and with a green and yellow melancholy," entered a convent, (for that is the climax of romance,) where she died in a few months.

ACCIDENTS IN GENERAL.

There is no situation or condition in human life that is not liable to a great variety of serious accidents, against which it is not always possible to guard by the greatest care and foresight. It is of the utmost importance, therefore, to remember that in every accident, one of the greatest and most powerful assistants in remedying it, is *presence of mind*. For want of this desirable self-possession, many a person has lost his life, and the mischiefs arising from unforeseen accidents have become irretrievable. If the mind be overwhelmed by fear, or astounded by alarm, it is utterly impossible, that deliberate measures can be taken to secure either our own safety, or the safety of those who happen to be about us, and in the same predicament with ourselves.—We repeat, therefore, that it is a proof of the truest wisdom to cultivate, and endeavour to preserve as much as possible, in all extraordinary and unexpected occasions, either of body or mind, or both, that chief requisite in every accident, for acting with coolness, judgment, and effect—*presence of mind*.

MORAL CAUSES OF EPIDEMICS.

No. III.

We have already seen that in former times disease prevailed most when the people were alarmed by natural phenomena, or depressed by famine or captivity.—Among epidemics of a later period, we shall find striking illustration in the varioloid disease which prevailed at Montpellier in 1816, and in the late fever in Ireland.

The epidemic of Montpellier was one of the worst which has afflicted the continent for many years. The sudden appearance of contagious fever in a place where no apparent generating cause existed, and where from the openness of the situation general health had so long reigned among the people, the dark features it assumed, and the fatal event of a great proportion of cases, excited almost as much surprise among the faculty, as terror among the people. It was attributed at one time to the dryness which prevailed during the whole of 1815, and at another to the cold winter of 1815-16. It is true that few years had been so destitute of rain as 1815—but is dryness usually a cause of disease? is it not allowed, on all sides, that moisture is the common vehicle of contagion? It is no less true that the winter of 1816 not only partook of the same character, but "took away spring from the year," as Pericles says,

and seemed to extend its empire so far into the summer, that that season which is usually so warm and serene in the mild and delightful climate of France, seemed almost obliterated from the seasons of that year. But does *dry cold* generate disease? "The year 1708, the coldest winter, says Arbuthnot, that perhaps was ever felt in England, was not attended with any great mortality amongst mankind;" and what fact is more notorious than the superior healthiness of northern climates. Thus do the two causes assigned by Berard and De la Vit, in their learned and important book, as producing the epidemic of Montpellier, seem to be such as would tend to prevent rather than generate disease.

Let us turn for a moment from these circumstances which act immediately on the corporeal system, to those which affect it more especially through the medium of mental distress, and see if we cannot find among these some of sufficient power to enervate the body and render it susceptible of morbid impressions, which would not affect it in ordinary times. Let us look a moment at the state of France at this eventful period. The whole country was agitated by those political passions which are stronger than any other passions in the bosom of a Frenchman; their national vanity was wounded; their lord whom they worshipped as a God, and whom they had long loved with an enthusiastic ardor, was the captive of an enemy whom they as cordially hated; the lustre of their metropolis, in which they saw reflected their individual happiness and national glory, was dimmed by the breath of the Cossacks; in a word it was at that moment they had fallen from a glorious and powerful nation to a victim and viceroyalty of England: and it was at that same moment, when hope was disappointed and pride mortified, that disease, which was but hidden in the grass, crept out upon the people and found them an easy prey.

It may be asked—if this general distress acted as an exciting cause of the epidemic, why did it appear only in the remote corners of the kingdom? Whoever is acquainted with the history of the French people knows that the influence of climate on the human character is no where so forcibly illustrated as among them. It is among the inhabitants of the south that political agitations usually commence; their feelings are more easily affected, and their bodies are more the slaves of their feelings; political passions will agitate their lively and sensitive constitutions, whilst the physical insensibility and moral indifference of the people of the north, protect them alike from the attack of disease & the accusation of unprincipled rashness. It is to the south then we are to look for that general depression of spirits and consequent diminution of the resisting powers of the system, which is the result of wounded vanity, thwarted ambition, fallen greatness and national degradation—and it was there, and under precisely such circumstances, that Disease came down—like the Persian army upon Babylon—when the people were least able to resist it: as if the same peal of the enemy's arms, that lulled the restless spirit of the populace, awakened the slumbers of a more insidious foe. No one, therefore, can doubt that the moral and political state of the country, rendered many hundreds of its inhabitants susceptible of a disease, which under different circumstances they would have entirely escaped.

It is not upon the continent, however, that we can expect the most striking illustrations of the influence of mental distress. They may be found far more interesting and more remarkable in the history of the late fever in Ireland, and a slight sketch of the circumstances

attending its invasion will at the same time interest the heart of the man, and open on the Physician some new light on the vast influence of mental enervation in giving rise, extent and malignity, to epidemic diseases.

REPORTS.

CASE OF ANEURISM.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

J. L. aged about 40, died of aneurism of the right subclavian artery. The first intimation which he had of the disease in this part, was about a year previous to his death. He then felt occasional pains in the neighbouring parts, which continued more or less severe, till a tumour appeared externally, at the second and third ribs, about three months, perhaps, previous to his decease. At one time it was about as large as a hen's egg, and produced a visible alteration in the thorax, by changing the situation of the ribs and sternum.

On examining the patient *post-mortem*, we found the aorta much enlarged, and a considerable quantity of earthy degeneration existing in the aneurism, which was formed by the subclavian artery, just where it branches off with the carotid, at the arteria innominata. The coats of the artery adhered to the ribs and sternum, and had been gradually absorbed; and death, probably, was caused—not by a rupture of the coats of the artery—but by want of vigor in the circulation to support life. The voice was affected some months, or a year before death, from pressure, it was thought, of the tumour upon the trachea and recurrent nerves. Hemiplegia also existed during the two or three last years of the patient's life, but was entirely distinct from the disease which occasioned his death.

LUMBRICI.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

C. B. aged 10 years, was found lying upon the floor about two o'clock, P. M. where he had fallen, apparently in a fit. He had eaten in the morning a quantity of dry acorns, and appeared as well as usual at dinner, though he ate moderately. The nearest physician was called immediately, who administered a large dose of ipecac without effect. He gave a second of tart. ant. soon after, with the same result. Every effort on his part, as far as experience suggested, was made to restore the patient, but without success. The pulse became more and more feeble, occasionally intermitting, and respiration difficult and hurried, till about three o'clock, P. M. when he expired.

An examination of the body was had soon after, in the presence of several medical gentlemen, who were called to learn, if possible, the cause of his sudden death. The stomach was found a little inflamed, and filled with a dark semi-fluid substance, resembling coffee-grounds, moderately acid. It contained, also, some small pieces of undigested potatoe, which had been eaten at dinner. The intestines were very much distended with air, except the ileum and cæcum, which were somewhat inflamed and filled with worms. The Surgeon, who conducted the dissection, extracted, I presume, from one hundred to a hundred and fifty or more, some of them measuring ten inches in length. One cluster or knot was immoderately large, and was supposed to contain fifty or sixty in number. The brain,

to all appearance, was healthy, and seemed to be disconnected with the cause of his death. The cause, however, was not fully disclosed, unless, indeed, the acorns which had been eaten, were sufficient to have produced a disturbance of the worms in the intestines, and to cause a sudden change in their position; which might affect the stomach by sympathy, and destroy the vital energy, and this be regarded as the proximate cause of death.

Quere. If a motion of the bowels had been early produced, by some brisk and powerful cathartic, is it not probable that the cause of the fit might have been removed, and the patient restored?

DEATH BY DROWNING.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

L. C. aged 16 years, was drowned while bathing. He was removed from the water in the course of twenty minutes or half an hour, and taken to a neighbouring house, where, in company with a distinguished physician, we arrived as soon as possible, to render our assistance.—The body was cold and lifeless. Water, and food which had been taken a short time previous for breakfast, were discharged from the mouth.—The face was bloated; the pupils dilated; and the lips cold and colourless. No pulse could be found, and little hope of resuscitation remained. Immediate efforts, however, were made to restore the body to life—such as the application of heat to the surface of the body, with bags of hot ashes, &c., friction, stimulants, electricity, artificial respiration, &c. &c. which last continued for nearly two hours. No hope of success remaining after the usual exertions, and constant application of the above measures, for more than three hours, the lifeless body was restored to the hands of his family and friends.

We have reported this case, in order to remark, that should our assistance be required hereafter, in a case of suspended animation from drowning, our first remedy would be a *warm bath*, in which the body should be immersed and continued, while warm wine and water, or warm cordials, should be given internally, until, if possible, action should be excited in the stomach—the *primum mobile* of the human body, and heat restored to the surface. Application of warm stimulants and heated flannels, or a warm flat-iron should also be applied along the spine, and continued for some time, which we are confident would prove useful, in many cases, and afford greater assurance of success than most other remedies.

INTELLIGENCE.

THE PHRENOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND THE TURNIP.—Most of our readers, we doubt not, have heard of the story in Blackwood's Magazine, of a leading member of the Phrenological Society of Edinburgh having been hoaxed with a cast from a turnip: the story ran thus—"A certain ingenious person of this town, (Edinburgh) lately met with a turnip of more than common foziness in his field; he made a cast of it, clapped it to the cast of somebody's face, and sent the composition to the Phrenological Society, with his compliments as a *fac simile* of a certain Swede, by name Professor Tornhippsen. They bit—a

committee was appointed—a report was drawn up—and the whole character of the Professor was made out as completely *secundum artem*, as Haggart's had been under the same happy auspices a little before. In a word, they found out that the illustrious Dr Tornhippison had been distinguished for Inhabitativeness, Constructiveness, Philoprogenitiveness, &c.—nay, even for 'Ideality,' and 'Veneration.' We always considered this story a very harmless joke on the Phrenologicals, but they have taken it up seriously, and give the following *genuine* account, I guess, in their own journal:—'In April, 1824, a medical gentleman in Edinburgh, aided by a landscape painter, fashioned a turnip into the *nearest resemblance* to a human skull which their combined skill and ingenuity could produce.—They had a cast made from it, and sent it to Mr G. Combe, requesting his observations on the mental talents and disposition it indicated; adding that it was the cast of the skull of a person of an uncommon character. Mr C. instantly detected the trick, and returned the cast, with the following parody of *The Man of Thessaly* pasted on the coronal surface:—

There was a man in Edinburgh,
And he was wondrous wise;
He went into a turnip field,
And cast about his eyes.

And when he cast his eyes about,
He saw the turnips fine;
'How many heads are there,' says he,
'That likeness bear to mine?'

So very like they are, indeed,
No sage, I'm sure, could know
This turnip head that I have on
From those that there do grow.'

He pull'd a turnip from the ground,
A cast from it was thrown;
He sent it to a Spurzheimite,
And pass'd it for his own.

And so indeed it truly was
His own in every sense;
For CAST and JOKE alike were made
All at his own expense.

'The medical gentleman called on Mr Combe next day, and assured him that he meant no offence, and intended only a joke. Mr C. replied, that he treated the matter as such; and that if the author of it was satisfied with his share of the wit, no feeling of uneasiness remained on the other side.'

BOWDOIN COLLEGE.—The Medical Lectures at Bowdoin College will commence on Monday, the 21st of February, 1825; on Surgery and the Theory and Practice of Physic, by Nathan Smith, M. D.; on Chemistry and Materia Medica, by Parker Cleaveland, M. D.; on Anatomy and Physiology, by John D. Wells, M. D.—This Medical Institution possesses a very extensive and valuable Anatomical Cabinet, and a Library which embraces all the most valuable modern works on Medicine and its collateral sciences, and which has received an addition of several hundred volumes from Europe since the last course of Lectures.—The fee for a ticket of admission to each course of Lectures, is fifteen dollars, payable in advance, amounting in the whole to forty-five dollars.—Arrangements have been made for rendering the Lectures on Midwifery much more extensive than at any preceding course.—The regulations of this Medical Institution require every person who becomes a member, to present satisfactory evidence of possessing a good moral character.—The usual price of boarding at Brunswick, is dol. 1.75 per week.

WILLIAM SWEETSER, M. D. has been elected Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, at the Burlington (Vermont) College.

DR ROBLEY DUNGLISON is appointed Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, in the University of Virginia.

M. BECU, the Professor of Pathology of the University of Wilna, was killed by lightning, in his bed, on the 8th of September last.

MINERAL TALLOW.—This rare substance, which was discovered in Finland in 1756, has lately been found in a bog on the borders of Loch Fyne, in Scotland. It has the colour and feel of tallow, and is tasteless. It melts at 118 degrees, and boils at 200 degrees; when melted it is transparent and colourless; on cooling, becomes spongy and white, though not so much so as at first. It is insoluble in water, but soluble in alcohol, oil of turpentine, olive oil, and naptha, while these liquids are hot; but it is precipitated again when they cool. Its specific gravity, in its natural state, is 0.6078, but the tallow is full of air-bubbles; and after fusion, which disengages the air, the specific gravity is 0.983, which is rather higher than tallow. It does not combine with alkalies, nor form soap. Thus it differs from every class of bodies known; from the fixed oils in not forming soap, and from the volatile oils and bitumens in being tasteless and destitute of smell.

Quere. May not the superior fatness and flavor of the "Loch Fyne Herrings," which are esteemed so far superior to any others in Scotland, be in a degree owing to the richness & nourishment imparted by this substance with which the bod of the loch must be impregnated?

ARTIFICIAL BEES-WAX.—The Asiatic Journal for February, 1824, contains a notice of the discovery, in India, of a method of manufacturing a substance, to which is given the name of Artificial Bees-wax. It is formed by a curious and ingenious process from vegetable oil.—It is used in the manufacture of candles.

LITHOTOMY.—M. Graefe lately extracted from a man 38 years old, a stone, weighing 21 oz. and 4 drachms. Its length was 4 inches, 3 lines; its breadth 3 inches, 9 lines; thickness 2 inches, 10 lines. Its longest circumference was 11 inches, 9 lines; its shortest 9 inches, 10 lines—all Paris measure. The patient died on the eleventh day. The ureters were as large bags, as high as the kidneys.

ELONGATION OF THE INFERIOR EXTREMITIES.—Messrs Richerand and Cloquet, relate the case of a patient of the hospital of St Louis, whose lower limbs admit of being alternately lengthened and shortened to the extent of three or four inches. These gentlemen explain the circumstance by supposing that the heads of the ossa femora are destroyed, as well as the sides of the cotyloid cavity.

BILIARY CONCRETIONS.—Coe, in his treatise on this subject, states, that Hoffman gives an instance of a gall-bladder distended in such a manner, as to contain 3646 concretions, nearly of the size of peas.

TO PREVENT CORNS.—Wear easy shoes; frequently bathing the feet in luke-warm water, with a little salt or potash dissolved in it. The corn itself may be completely destroyed by rubbing it daily with a little caustic solution of potash, till the skin is soft and flexible.

IMPEDIMENTS OF SPEECH.—Those who are afflicted with impediments of speech, are informed that an opportunity is now presented for their cure, by applying to Mr Chapman, Principal of the Philadelphia Institution, who has taken up a residence in Boston for a short time. As Mr Chapman has been very successful in his mode of cure, we are desirous of giving this valuable information a general circulation.

GORMANDIZER.—A baker recently offered an oyster-man, in a house at Frome, a shilling to let him have a belly-full. The offer was accepted, and the glutton commenced his meal. In a short time every oyster the poor fellow had in his sack, amounting in number to 213, and in value to 4s. 6d. were devoured with apparent ease. The glutton refused to give the poor fellow even the shilling, alledging that his agreement was to have a belly-full, and that he could then eat as many again as he had, and a pound of beef-steaks afterwards, and there is little doubt of his having been able to do so.

PARALYTIC.—There is now at Kirkheaton, (Eng.) a remarkable instance of excessive sleep. A poor paralytic, twenty years of age, for the last twelve months, has not commonly been awake for more than three hours in the twenty-four. At one period he slept for three weeks—he took not a particle of either food or drink—nothing could rouse him, even for a moment; yet his sleep appeared to be calm and natural. The lad is now exceedingly hearty, his spirits are good, and to inquiries he answers he is happy and 'bravely.' The case has been particularly examined by Mr Thackrah, surgeon, and he finds the lad to labour under disease of the brain and spinal marrow.

MR B. ROWLEY, Surgeon of Barnsley, recently killed himself by drinking brandy, for a wager. He swallowed a pint in a few moments, and immediately fell dead from his chair.

A querulous invalid was telling his Physician that he, though advanced in life, did not know how to manage himself. "You know, my friend," says the Doctor, "that a man at forty is either a physician or a fool." The invalid archly surveying the son of Æsculapius, who was of that age himself, shrewdly replied—"pray, Doctor, may not a man be both?"

Lord Longborough rallying a Physician, one day, on the inefficacy of his prescriptions, the doctor said he defied any of his patients to find fault with him. "That," answered the witty lord, "is just what Jack Ketch says."

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending December 11; from the Health-Office Returns.

December 4th.—Caleb Hayden, 38; Merab H. Drew, 6; Nancy Homer, 38; Faith Wheeler, 54. 5th.—Jane S. Perkins, 9 mo; Thomas Moore, 65; Hugh Kelley, 10 mo. 6th.—Meydene Hodgins, 26; Sarah J. Shackford, 2; Ann Maria Mash, 19 mo; Margaret Rogers; Thomas Dickinson; George Gardner, 22; Rebecca Mapes; Philip Ridgway, 45; Elizabeth H. Adams, 11 mo. 7th.—Richard H. Hartshorn, 16 mo; George Otis, 6 mo; William Johnson, 8; Susanna Farrington, 49; Maria Huggefard, 29; Mary Hinds, 69; John Delany; Eliza Harris; Esther Parker, 77; William Littlehale. 8th.—John Emmons, 4 mo; Maria Couthouy, 92; Abigail Cushing; Isaac Jones, 2. 9th.—William Anderson, 2; Jane L. Wilson, 53; Thomas Eaton, 44. 10th.—Catharine Louisa Kilton, 2; Eliza White, 25; Franklin Whitman, 3 mo; Robert P. Eaton; Eliza E. Guild, 2. 11th.—Hannah Paine, 54.

Consumption, 7—Croup, 2—Lung Fever, 7—Inflammation in the Lungs, 1—Dropsy in the Chest, 1—Intemperance, 1—Typhus Fever, 2—Stillborn, 1—Bed-Ridden, 1—Dropsy in the Head, 3—Old Age, 1—Cancer, 1—Infantile, 1—Sudden, 1.

DIED—In Somerset, on the 22d ult. Dr Francis Bowland, æt. 69.

In Fitchburgh, Dr Peter Snow, æt. 65.

In Gallipolis, Ohio, Oct. 22d, Dr Jacob Kittredge, aged 44. Dr K. formerly resided in Salem, whence he removed to Gallipolis in 1815, and has since been engaged in a successful and extensive practice.

In Preston, Conn. Dr Benjamin Ellis, aged 78. He served as a Surgeon in the revolutionary war.

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OBSERVATIONS.

THE HEALTH OF THE POOR.

The following extracts from a paper written by Dr Ferries, of Manchester, contain much useful information on the preservation of health in manufacturing, and other populous towns.

1. Avoid living in damp cellars; they destroy your constitutions, and shorten your lives. No temptation of low rents can counterbalance their ill effects. You are apt to crowd into the cellars of new buildings, supposing them to be clean. This is a fatal mistake. A new house is always damp for two years, and the cellars, which you inhabit under them, are generally as moist as the bottom of a well. In such places you are liable to bad fevers, which often throw the patient into a decline; and you are apt to get rheumatic complaints, that continue for a long time, and disable you from working.

2. If you cannot help taking a cellar, be attentive to have all the windows put in good repair before you venture into it; and, if possible, get it white-washed. If you attempt to live in a cellar with broken windows, colds and fevers will be the certain consequences.

3. In many parts of the town you sleep in back rooms, behind the front cellar; rooms, which are dark, and have no circulation of air. It would be much more healthy to sleep in the front part: at least, when you have large families, which is often the case, you ought to divide them, and not crowd the whole together in the back cellar.

4. Keep your persons and houses as clean as your employment will permit; and do not regret the loss of an hour's wages, when your time is occupied in attending to cleanliness. It is better to give up a little time occasionally, in order to keep your houses neat, than to see your whole family lying sick, in consequence of working constantly, without cleaning. It would be of great service if you could contrive to air your beds and bed-clothes out of doors, once or twice a week.

5. Always wash your children from head to foot with cold water, before you send them to work in the morning. Take care to keep them dry in their feet, and never allow them to go to work, without giving them their breakfast, though you should have nothing for them but a crust of bread and a little water. Children who get wet feet, when they go out early fasting, seldom escape fevers or severe colds.

6. When you have reason to believe that any of your neighbours are afflicted with fevers, and that they have not taken care to procure the assistance afforded by the dispensary, you ought, both from a regard to them, and to yourselves, to give immediate information.

7. You ought to be very cautious in purchasing old clothes, or second-hand furniture, as they may be brought from houses infected with fever; and you may introduce the infection with them into your own dwellings. Every article of this kind ought to be stoved, or ventilated, before it is admitted into your houses.

8. Your sick neighbours, when the fever gets into their houses, may often require assistance from you. It would be cruel to refuse them, yet it is hard that you should be obliged to expose your health, and that of your family. You ought never to visit them from idle curiosity.—But when they require your help in making their beds, washing, or turning the sick, you may preserve yourselves from being infected, by tying a handkerchief across your face, just below the eyes, to prevent the exhalations from the bodies of the sick from entering your mouths and nostrils. As soon as you return to your own house, wash your hands and face in cold water, and avoid touching any of your family for a half, or three quarters of an hour.

9. Your health will always be materially injured by the following circumstances:—living in small back buildings, adjoining to the open vaults of privies,—or in cellars, where the streets are not properly drained,—or in the narrow bye streets, where sheep are slaughtered, and where the blood and garbage are allowed to stagnate and corrupt,—and, perhaps more than all, by living crowded together, in dirty lodgings, where you cannot have the common comforts of light and air.

10. It is unnecessary to remind you that much sickness is occasioned among you, by passing your evenings at ale-houses.

11. There is scarcely any thing more injurious to the health of children, than allowing them to work at night in the cotton-mills. It may not always be in your power to prevent their being employed in this manner; but you should be made acquainted with the danger to which you expose them. There is no hazard incurred by their working during the day, in clean, well-managed cotton-mills.

12. It is also proper to inform you, that you may be infected with fevers, by working in the same place with persons who have just recovered from fevers, or by people who come from infected houses, where they are at no pains to keep themselves clean. You had better collect something among yourselves, to support such persons for a fortnight after their recovery, than expose yourselves to the risk of catching a fever, by their returning too early to work.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF EXERCISE.

Exercise may be divided into two kinds;—namely, the active and the passive. Of the former kind are, walking, running, leaping, riding, swimming, fencing, &c. Of the latter are, riding in a carriage, sailing, friction, &c.

The more active kinds of exercise are best adapted to youth, to those of a middle age, and particularly to the corpulent, and those whose evacuations are not in due proportion to the quantity of food and drink. The passive kinds of exercise, on the contrary, are better suited to infants, to persons advanced far in years, to the delicate and weak, and especially the asthmatic and consumptive.

For preserving health, there is no kind of exercise more proper than *walking*, as it gives the

most general action to the muscles of the body but, for valetudinarians, *riding on horseback* is preferable. It is almost incredible how much the constitution may be strengthened by this exercise, when continued for a considerable time; not so much in the fashionable way of a morning ride, but of making long journeys, in which there is the farther advantage of a perpetual change of air. Numbers of people, reduced to a state of great weakness, have, by this means, acquired a degree of vigour and health, which all the medical prescriptions in the world could not otherwise have procured. But, it is of importance, in travelling for health, that one should not employ his mind in deep reflections, but enjoy the company of an agreeable companion, and gratify his sight with the prospect of the various objects around him. In this exercise, as well as in every other, we ought always to begin gently, and to finish gradually, never abruptly.

WEATHER-WISDOM.

In a recent review of FORSTER, we enumerated some of the prognostics of weather, and in this number present our readers with a few remarks on the same subject, by the Rev. ADAM CLARKE, L. L. D. F. R. S.—The circumstance that the same state of the weather *uniformly* follows the same appearances in the heavens and the same movements in the animal and vegetable creation, is a certain proof that the same sequence will ever continue to be manifested. By a series of observations, then, the weather may be prognosticated with uniform correctness; and since the advancement of the science which has this object in view, is of vast importance to agriculturalists, or, in other words, the great body of the people, and since it would subserve the comfort and the health of all, we shall omit no opportunity of presenting such facts as seem to us at all calculated to throw light upon the subject. Speculations in this science, as in Phrenology, are destitute of utility—it is by *accurate observation* only it can be improved and made useful.

From my earliest childhood, says Dr C. I was bred on a little farm, which I was taught to care for and cultivate, ever since I was able to spring the rattle, use the whip, manage the sickle, or handle the spade; and as I found much of our success depended on a proper knowledge & management of the weather, I was led to study it ever since I was eight years of age. I believe *Meteorology* is a *natural science*, and one of the first that is studied; and that every child in the country makes, untaught, some progress in it; at least so it was with me. I had actually learned, by silent observation, to form good conjectures concerning the coming weather, and, on this head, to teach wisdom among them that were perfect, especially among such as had not been obliged like me to watch earnestly, that what was so necessary to the *family support*, should not be spoiled by the weather before it was housed.—Many a time, even in tender youth, have I watched the heavens with anxiety, examined the different appearances of the morning and evening sun, the phases of the moon, the scintillation of the stars, the course and colour of the clouds,

the flight of the crow and swallow, the gambols of the colt, the fluttering of the ducks, and the loud screams of the sea-mew—not forgetting even the hoarse croaking of the frog. From the little knowledge I had derived from close observation, I often ventured to direct our agricultural operations in reference to the coming days, and was seldom much mistaken in my reckoning. When I thought I had a pretty good stock of knowledge and experience in this way, I ventured to give council to my neighbours.—For my kindness, or perhaps officiousness on this head, I met one day with a mortifying rebuff. I was about ten years of age; it was harvest time, and “what sort of a day to-morrow would be,” was the subject of conversation. To a very intelligent gentleman who was present, I stated in opposition to his own opinion, “Mr P. to-morrow will be a *foul day*.”—To which he answered, “Adam, how can you tell?” I answered, without giving the rule on which my prognostication was founded, “O, Sir, I know it will be so.”—“You know! how should you know?” “Why, Sir,” I pleasantly replied, “because I am *weather-wise*.” “Yes,” said he, “or *other wise*.”—The next day, however, proved that my augury was well drawn.

About twenty years ago, a Table, purporting to be the work of the late Dr Hershel, was variously published, professing to form prognostics of the weather, by the times of the change, full and quarters of the moon. I have carefully consulted this table for several years, and was amazed at its general accuracy:—for though long as I have been engaged in the study of the weather, I never thought that any rules could be devised liable to so few exceptions.

ICHTHYOSIS CORNEA.

“All of us have heard of *horns* in male foreheads; but few are aware, that the only real horns ever produced from human heads have grown from female ones! ‘Do you see these horns?’ said Professor Blumenbach, the celebrated natural historian, addressing his class at Gottingen, and drawing forth three horns; ‘they were once worn by a woman. She happened to fall and break her head; from the wound sprouted this long horn; it continued to grow for thirty years, and then she cast it; it dropped off. In its place came a second one; but it did not grow so long, and dropped off too. Then this third one, all on the same spot; but the poor woman died while the third was growing, and I had it cut from the corpse.’ They were literally (says the author of the recent ‘*Tour of Germany*,’ after quoting this passage) three genuine horns. The last two are short, thick, and nearly straight; but the first is about ten inches long, and completely twisted, like the horn of a ram. It is round and rough, of a brownish colour, and fully half an inch in diameter towards the root. All three are hollow, at least at the base. The termination is blunt and rounded. Other instances of the same thing have been known, but always in women; and Blumenbach says it has been ascertained, by chemical analysis, that such horns have a greater affinity, in their composition, with those of the rhinoceros, than with those of any other animal.”

Thus much says the Tourist of Germany. We remember to have seen two cases of this disease; one

was in the foot of an old lady, in this city, and we succeeded in detaching the excrescence by a persevering use of caustic applications round its base. The other was a female patient in the Hospice de l’Ecole de Medicine, at Paris. The horn was situated on the upper part of the forehead; it was attached firmly to the bone, about three inches in diameter at its base, and two inches at its extremity. The substance was distinctly horny, as we ascertained from an accurate examination of a piece which we cut off with a penknife. This lady was very old, complained frequently of headache, and it was not thought advisable to do any operation for the removal of her malady.

Although, therefore, our own observation will not enable us to question the truth of the *traveller’s story*, several cases will be found in the 38th No. of the 1st Vol. of our paper, in which horny excrescences were found in males, and we doubt not many other such cases are every day occurring.

GENERAL RULES FOR PRESERVING LIFE AND HEALTH.

1. Rise early, and never sit up late.
2. Wash the whole body every morning with cold water, by means of a large sponge, and rub it dry with a rough towel, or scrub the whole body for ten or fifteen minutes with flesh brushes.
3. Drink water generally, and avoid excess of spirits, wine, and fermented liquors.
4. Keep the body open by the free use of the syringe, and remove superior obstructions by aperient pills.
5. Sleep in a room which has free access to the open air.
6. Keep the head cool by washing it when necessary with cold water, and abate feverish and inflammatory symptoms when they arise, by persevering stillness.
7. Correct symptoms of plethora and indigestion by eating and drinking less *per diem* for a few days.
8. Never eat a hearty supper, especially of animal food; and drink wine, spirits, and beer, if these are necessary, only after dinner.

MORAL CAUSES OF EPIDEMICS. No. IV.

It is well known that a species of typhus fever, which is always found in some degree in most large cities, particularly in Scotland and Ireland, began to prevail among the sons of Erin, with uncommon obstinacy, in 1816. It marched with such rapidity that it soon overran the whole island, and assumed as it went such a malignant character, that it very strikingly resembled the spotted fever which a few years ago visited some parts of our own country;—at length it became so extensive and so fatal, that it could be compared to nothing but the plague, of which we fortunately hear more than we see. This disease began to be epidemic immediately after the peace. What were the circumstances of the people at this moment?

“In the county of Waterford,” says the report made to the British Parliament on the state of fever and the poor in Ireland, “poverty was extreme; in consequence of the failure of the crops in 1816, scarcity had prevailed to a degree almost amounting to famine.” “With these evils, want of employment, arising from the change from war to peace, and the failure or deficiency of manufactures, contributed in a high degree to increase the distress. The manufacture of snuff, which formerly was pretty extensive, has of late years greatly declined. One of the inspectors of the convalescent

committee had very lately visited many of the weaver’s rooms, in all of which he had found but one loom at work.

“The slaughtering of beef, from which the poor inhabitants derived some assistance, had also ceased.—The miserable consequences thus arising from the concurrence of scarcity with want of employment, far exceeded all former example.”

“In other parts of the county of Waterford, the distresses of the poor were much increased by the failure of the fishery, which occurred *about the time when the disease became epidemic*.” “At this period several of the fishermen had become beggars.”

In the county of Cork there were causes which tended more than the filth of the streets or the want of ventilation, to promote the spread of the disease.

“Great scarcity,”—says the report—“and bad quality of provisions, increase of failures in trade, owing to the translation from war to peace, mendicants flocking to the city, and the needy in general crowding together in search of employment, were the awful circumstances marking this eventful period.”

In other parts of the same county, “despondency” was the pre-eminent cause of the disease.

“But a few years ago the fishermen of the town of Kinsale were never known to become mendicants; now they are often reduced to this necessity.” “At Millstreet it was stated that half-starved wretches, joined by the idle and ill-disposed, passed through the county, seizing on potatoes and meal; and such was the violence of their importunity for food, that the distribution of soup became almost a service of personal danger.” “The Kerry labourers, and many of the people west of Bandon, emigrate during the season of harvest, and their wives and children at these times generally become beggars. The increase of this evil must have been enormous at the time of scarcity, and amongst a people with whom emigration and mendicity are annual habits, and must have contributed powerfully to extend fever through a population unemployed, debilitated, *despondent*, and in every respect susceptible of impression from this calamity.” “The disease was in general reported to be either similar to the ordinary fever of this country, or to be merely a variety of this disease, modified by the peculiar circumstances of the people at the time of its invasion.”

In the county of Kerry, the circumstances of the people at the time when fever became epidemic, were such as to make humanity shudder at the picture of its wretchedness.

“Fuel scarce and dear; farmers generally failing in consequence of the change from war to peace; beggars passing through the county in crowds, seizing on provisions; great deficiency of employment; scarcely any manufacture in their towns; the want of food so pressing in the neighbourhood of Tralee, that seed potatoes were taken up from the ground and used for the support of life; nettles and other esculent wild vegetables eagerly sought after to satisfy the cravings of hunger; influx of strangers to such a degree that it was emphatically said ‘the whole country was in motion,’ and female mendicants often carrying about children suffering from fever in their arms; and it was reported to me that a husband, wife, and five children, were seen walking in the streets of Killarny, all labouring under fever, and such was the conviction of its contagious nature, that the ties of family affection were in some instances dissolved, and the nearest relatives when seized with the disease, were forced out of their cabins into huts generally placed by the road-side, to prevent infection and obtain charitable relief.”

Who can read these melancholy details without being convinced that the depression, gloom, and absolute despondency, attendant on such circumstances, tended far more than dirty lanes, or damp rooms, or piles of putrid matter, to produce the terrible scourge which afflicted the good people of Ireland?

Neither despondence nor disease were confined to the district of Munster. In the county of Galway—

“The epidemic pressed most generally on the poor or lower orders. Antecedent to its appearance, they were in a state of despondency from want of employment.

In the county of Clare, too, "the lower classes were almost exclusively those affected. They had suffered privations of every kind—they were dispirited for want of employment." "Among the better classes, many of those who were affected with fever had sustained severe losses, either by the failure of the Tuam bank, or by the fall on the price of land and stock. The final issue of a considerable proportion of such cases was unfavourable."

It is well worthy of remark, that though the fever occurred principally among the poor, yet among the better classes it was seldom surmounted, particularly under circumstances of grief and despair. In Ulster, the mortality among them was one in five; whilst among the poor one in twenty only fell victims to the epidemic. This circumstance cannot be explained by those who attribute the prevalence of disease to the wants incident to poverty. It demonstrates in the clearest possible manner that death was often produced by the fear of it. The rich had more comforts than the poor—as they enjoyed life so they valued it, and as they valued it so much the more did the fear of death weaken the resisting powers of the system, and thus increase the force of disease, render its symptoms more alarming, and its consequences more fatal.

Neither can it be said that this was a pestilential disease imported from abroad—for it appeared at the same moment in remote parts of the island. In Connaught, for example, the time the fever became epidemic in Sligo at the northern and Ennis at the southern extremity, in Galway at the west and Athlone at the eastern extreme points of the district, was nearly simultaneous, which affords a striking and curious proof that it was not brought from any foreign shore. Besides, it must be remembered that the same disease, in a milder form, has generally prevailed, in some slight degree, in Ireland; it was no *strange* malady that came to feed on their wretchedness. "It did not differ," says Dr Barker, "from the ordinary kind which so generally prevails in Ireland." But the moment public calamity threw so many thousands out of employ, it drove those thousands to despondency—for though obscure in life, and from habit and necessity contented with a scanty pittance, they, like us, had natural affections; the husband was miserable to see his wife deprived of the enjoyments to which she had been accustomed, and the wife deplored the misery of her husband; parents wept at the melancholy prospect of their offspring, and children despaired because no efforts of their own would enable them to bear their aged parents from the ruin that awaited them; and those who were alone in the world—orphans, childless, friendless—even these were not spared; though parents, children, friends had deserted them, a heart still beat within their bosom, and beat quicker and more quick as the load of human misery gathered around them, till weakened by pity, and still more excited by the fear of solitary sickness and unlamented death, each successive throb assumed some new and melancholy mark of approaching dissolution.

Equally fruitless are all attempts to trace its origin to any peculiarity in the face of the country, or in the climate of that year, or any cause of noxious effluvia. In no province where it prevailed can we find the least shadow of a reason to justify such a supposition. It will be sufficient at this time to point to the province of Connaught, the whole of which is of a dry limestone formation; it is finely varied by hills, valleys and lakes, and in ordinary times is a healthy country, has no endemic disease, and is never subject to any noxious exhalations. Yet in these wholesome abodes, few escaped the disease, except those "whose minds were at ease,

or at least," says the report, "*above the feelings of despondency.*" Besides this, it is well known that the Irish are constantly and habitually exposed to wet and cold, which seldom prove injurious to them; and it is equally notorious that the fever seized not on those who lived in the most unhealthy situations, but principally on those who were most depressed by the existing state of public affairs.

INFLUENCE OF THE HAIR ON ANIMAL SPIRITS.

The hair being a bad conductor of caloric, was evidently designated—not merely, as many physiologists believe, to secrete a particular fluid—but of itself to isolate the head from the atmosphere, and preserve a proper degree of heat in the brain.

When a person who has been in the habit of wearing hair, has it cut off close to the other integuments, he experiences for some days a singular sensation—a kind of vacancy and uneasiness of mind. The scalp seems to him to be pressed hard down or drawn over the cranium. The expression of his face is a little changed—his eyes lose their ordinary vivacity—he tries to open them wider, as if the light they received was not sufficient for them—and he thinks he gets a little relief from his unpleasant sensations by rubbing his head with his hand, which he finds has been involuntarily raised for that purpose.

It appears that the ancient magicians of the East, and the Geniuses of antiquity, were acquainted with this influence of the hair on the animal spirits—for being the first institutors of the monastic orders, they resorted to different means of modifying the violent passions of their adepts or their novices, in order to make them more suited to study and the exercise of wisdom. It was for this purpose barbers were introduced among them, and they are retained to this day in all the orders of priests.

Despotic sovereigns adopted this custom from the magicians, and required by their laws—inserted, in fact, in the articles of their religion—that their subjects should wear their heads shaved. This regulation is still in force among many despots of the East, and prevailed formerly over all Europe—among the Greeks, Romans, Galls, &c. (at least for certain casts of their people,) as if by this means they deprived their subjects of the energy of their minds and passions, that they might be less sensible of the hardships and disgrace of servitude and tyranny.—It was formerly a mark of disgrace, dishonour and imbecility, for princes to have the hair cut, and universally acknowledged that kings and philosophers *barbato crinitos que esse oportebat*.

That the hair isolates a particular fluid, is evident from the fact that during the effervescence or violence of passion, and particularly when frightened, it shoots out as if filled with electricity—a sure sign of the explosion of some fluid. This fact was well known to the ancients; Virgil says—*Steterunt que comæ et vox faucibus hæsit*, &c.

The familiar story of Sampson might now be adduced from the sacred scriptures, and numerous other facts of similar import might easily be brought forward—not for the purpose of illustrating the physical force of this part of our anatomy—but its influence on our moral energies.

The many instances—well authenticated instances—in which the hair has been changed to grey by the sole influence of sudden and excessive fear, illustrate, in a striking manner, the influence of the cerebral faculties on the external covering of the brain, and the circumstances mentioned in our previous remarks, clearly

show that this influence is reciprocal.—We shall detain our readers only to ask if the *uniformity* with which an ardent disposition and sanguine character are found in persons whose hair is red, and peculiar features in the minds of those in whom this tissue is sandy or black, do not prove in the most decided manner, that there exists an intimate connection, in the human race, between the hair and the animal spirits?

REPORTS.

SINGULAR CASE AT GUY'S HOSPITAL.

On the 22d ult. one of the most singular cases was admitted into this hospital that has been witnessed for many years, in the person of Samuel Raffles, the head waiter at the Dover Castle, Marsh-gate, Lambeth. He was seized with every symptom of Hydrophobia. He foamed at the mouth, yelped and barked like a dog, and on water being presented to him, he was immediately attacked with repeated spasmodic convulsions of the most violent nature. On being taken to this hospital, he was placed under the care of Dr Back, who immediately procured a copious discharge of blood by ordering him to be cupped. He then underwent a most strict examination, to endeavour to ascertain if there were any wounds about his body, which might have been occasioned by the bite of an animal; but after the most minute search, none were discernible. By pursuing the "soothing system," he is now nearly recovered, and on Thursday he was allowed to walk about perfectly at liberty, and if he thus continues improving, he will be suffered to return to his family on Wednesday.

This attack his medical attendant attributes to excessive sympathy, supposed to have been occasioned by his reading the account of James Drew, who had water injected into his veins, according to the new method pursued in Paris, and who died in the hospital a few weeks ago, in violent tortures. The case of this poor fellow is a convincing proof (if proof were wanting) with what ease the nerves of hypochondriacal individuals are influenced and operated upon by reading similar accounts. It was shrewdly remarked by a very eminent physician, (the late Dr Day, of Maidstone,) that "if he wished to increase his practice, he had only to recommend the perusal of *Buchan's Domestic Medicine* to the whole of his nervous patients, and they would have directly imagined that they were afflicted with the whole catalogue of human maladies."

SINGULAR CASE OF RESUSCITATION.

The following singular occurrence, which recently happened in the neighbourhood of Woodford, (Eng.) has excited very considerable sensation there:—Elizabeth Cave, an interesting young woman, about 19 years of age, who lived in the service of ——— Forest, Esq. a gentleman residing at Woodford, in consequence of getting her feet wet, caught a severe cold, which brought on a fever. She was confined to her bed several days, when to all appearance she died. The next day she was placed in a coffin, and the intelligence of her supposed death conveyed to her mother. From her good conduct while in the service of Mr F. that gentleman had resolved to defray the expenses of the funeral, which it was arranged should take place on Sunday, a week after her supposed death. On

that day her mother and several other relatives came to pay the last tribute of respect to her memory, and, previous to the coffin being screwed down, went to take a last "long, lingering look," when one of them observed she had not undergone the change usual on such occasions, and that her face appeared rather flushed. A surgeon was sent for, who ordered her to be placed in a warm bath, and applied the remedies usually resorted to to recover persons apparently drowned, and which were happily crowned with complete success, as the young woman in a few hours was able to speak, and is now in a fair way of recovery.

PARALYSIS OF THE LEG AND ARM.

From among our Reminiscences.

Deacon B——, an intemperate old man, was attacked with a paralysis of the left leg and arm, Feb. 20, 1817, at 4 o'clock, A. M. He had a violent pain over the right eye. At 10 o'clock the same day we saw him. The numbness was so complete that he could not feel a pan of ignited coals against his leg, and would not believe that bottles of boiling hot water were at his feet. He said the pain over the eye was the most severe imaginable, and he had lost all power of voluntary motion of the limbs affected. The tongue was swelled and very slightly coated; the speech indistinct, and senses apparently perfect. Pulse as usual. We ordered the patient to be put into a state of gentle perspiration, and left powders for this purpose, composed of

Comp. pulv. contray. gr. x.

Camphoræ, gr. v.

Carb. Amm. g. vj. Mixed. One every six hours.

Alternately with these powders he was ordered to take stimulating cordials, and soups and other light and nourishing diet. A blister was ordered at the back of the neck, and the limbs affected to be rubbed with mustard seed and vinegar.

2d day. Patient's pain in the eye not so great, and a little pain in left side. The same treatment was continued, and a dose of

Scammony
Calomel
Cream of Tartar
Ginger } $\bar{a} \bar{a}$ 10 grs. M.

was ordered to be given.

3d day. Patient began to recover some feeling in the leg, but it was constantly extended, and if bent, it instantly returned, as if elastic, to its state of extension. The pulse was scarcely perceptible. Rubefacients were continued, and a beer prescribed, composed of

Cort. Cinch. $\bar{3}$ ss.

Cort. Aurant. $\bar{3}$ iss.

Serp. Virg. $\bar{3}$ jss. Mixed.

and steeped in a pint and a half of water ten or fifteen minutes. Then add

Molasses } $\bar{a} \bar{a}$ one half gill.
Yeast }

Set it aside to ferment; two or three ounces to be taken every fourth hour, and between whiles the sweating powder was directed to be continued.

4th day. Pulse more full and healthy; leg had lost its elasticity; beer only to be continued; and the scammony cathartic to be repeated.

6th day. The scammony cathartic had operated but slightly. The pain had recurred over both eyes, and on the 5th day was very severe. The motion of the leg and the sensibility of the hand had partially returned. Pulse scarcely per-

ceptible, but thought he felt stronger. With a continuation of the friction and beer, a repetition of a blister behind the neck was ordered, and two tea-spoonsful of

Tinct. Guaiac. 5 pts.

Amm. Alcohol, 1 pt. Mixed. Three times daily.

7th day. Patient stronger and better in every respect. Complained of incontinence of urine. The same treatment, continued a few days, restored him to health without any further remedies.

INTELLIGENCE.

BERKSHIRE MEDICAL INSTITUTION.—The following course of instruction will be pursued the ensuing season, in the Berkshire Medical Institution, at Pittsfield, Mass.:—

The reading term will commence on the first Wednesday of February next, and continue until the last week in August, following. During the months of February and March, *Practical Anatomy* will be attended to under the particular direction of Dr Batchelder.

In the month of April, a course of lectures and demonstrations on *General Anatomy* will be delivered by Dr J. V. C. Smith. A course will also be given on operative and demonstrative Surgery by Dr Batchelder. During the whole reading term, except such parts of it as are employed in practical anatomy, there will be five recitations a week on Anatomy and Surgery, and six on Theory and Practice of Medicine, Materia Medica and Obstetrics. From the nature of their business, perfect regularity of attendance cannot be expected from all the instructors, yet there will be from eight to eleven recitations a week. Instruction in Botany and Mineralogy will be given by a gentleman engaged for that purpose.

The fees for the whole course, \$35.00, contingent expenses included. Admission to the Library, Cabinets of Anatomy, Mineralogy and Natural History, gratis. Board, including washing, lodging and rooms, can be obtained in the Institution, for \$1.75 per week. There will be a vacation of two or three weeks, commencing on the last Wednesday in May. The students will have an opportunity of seeing the practice of the Professors, and attending all surgical operations where pupils can be admitted.

The number of students attending the late autumnal course of lectures in this Institution, was nearly one hundred.

MEDICAL STUDENTS.—There are more than 500 students in the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania—126 at the Academy of Medicine, at Castleton, Vt.—123 at the Massachusetts Medical College—78 at Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H.—and nearly 100 at the Berkshire Medical Institution, at Pittsfield, Mass. A notice of this flourishing Institution will be found in our columns this day.

CURE FOR THE SCROFULA.—A person signing himself "A. S." writes thus to Mr Poulson, of the Philadelphia Advertiser:—

"I beg permission to publish, from motives of humanity, a certain cure for the Scrofula. Having a child of ten years of age, which had been afflicted with that disease for a considerable time, alarmingly—the usual remedies were administered by an eminent physician, with little effect. An acquaintance recommended a grass, or plant, called *Speedwell*. A handful of it (dried) was put in a tea-pot, and a decoction of it was given, 4 or 5 times a day, a tea-cupful at each time. In a very short time a perfect cure was the result. This plant grows spontaneously in lots of ground newly ploughed, in the suburbs of the city, and is gathered in the month of May."

Although the authority is anonymous, we should catch at the suggestion of every new remedy for a disease which is considered incurable by known means.

INFLUENCE OF PRUSSIC ACID UPON VEGETATION.—M. C. J. Th. Becker, in his *Dissertatio de Acidi Hydrocyanici vi perniciosa in Planas*, which appeared at Jena, in 1823, in 4to. has performed a number of experiments, from which it follows that the Prussic acid, prepared according to Vauquelin's method, destroys vegetable life in nearly the same manner as it acts upon animals. Grains immersed in this acid die or lose their germinating faculty. The more delicate vegetables yield to it more readily than the robust ones.

KITTREDGE'S BONE OINTMENT.—The following has been handed us as the receipt for making the Unguentum Compositum—commonly called Kittredge's Bone Ointment:—Take of night-shade, plantain, mallows, hemlock, henbane, melilot, elder-leaves, camomile and John's wort—these, fresh gathered, are to be bruised in a mortar, and simmered in lard and neat's foot oil, or fresh butter, till the herbs become crisp.

SMALL-POX.—This dreadful disease is still lurking about Philadelphia and New-York.

MINISTERS OF DEATH.—The following Portraiture of the Ministers of Death, is taken from the Seatonian Prize Essay on Death, by the late Rev. Bishop of London.

At his right hand, nearest himself in place
And frightfulness of form his parent—*Sin*
With fatal industry and cruel care,
Busies herself in pointing all his stings,
And tipping every shaft, with venom, drawn
From her infernal store—around him rang'd
In terrible array and mixture strange,
Of uncouth shapes, stand his dread ministers!
Foremost, *Old Age*, his natural ally
And firmest friend. Next him *Diseases* thick,
A motly train—*Fever* with cheek of fire;
Consumption wan—*Palsy* half warm with life,
And half a clay-cold lump—joint torturing *Gout*,
And ever gnawing *Rheum*—*Convulsion* wild,
Swoln Dropsy, panting *Asthma*, *Apoplexy*
Full gorg'd. There too the *Pestilence* that walks
In darkness, and the sickness that destroys
At broad noon day. These and a thousand more
Horrid to tell, attentive wait; and when
By heaven's command *Death* waves his ebon wand,
Sudden rush forth to execute his purpose
And scatter desolation o'er the earth.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,
Ending December 17; from the Health-Office Returns.

December 9th.—William Whall, 78. 10th.—Caroline Robinson, 10 mo. 11th.—Henry Stedman, 17 mo. 12th.—Susanna Houghton, 4 weeks; Elizabeth Hanson, 47. 13th.—Peter Byrns, 35; Michael Madagan, 30; Ann Trask, 64; Mary Hancock, 2; Nancy Boyd, 52; Jeremiah Eaton, 63; Sidney Cutler, 4; Benjamin R. Davidson, 3; Christopher T. Dalton, 2; Dorcas Lane, 11 mo. 14th.—William B. Thayer, 14 mo; Washington Lafayette Adams, 4 mo; Lucy Barnes, 63; Williams, 15 mo; John Reed; Jared Jones; Kimball; John A. Eaton. 15th.—James Freeman, 49; Samuel Smith Woodman, 24; Calista Moses, 2 mo. 16th.—Thomas Lambert; John M. Whitman, 5. 17th.—Child of Isaac Spear; William A. Cunningham, 4.

Old Age, 1—*Hooping Cough*, 1—*Lung Fever*, 6—*Infantile*, 2—*Consumption*, 5—*Mortification*, 1—*Sudden*, 1—*Strangulated Hernia*, 1—*Inflammation on the Brain*, 1—*Rupture*, 1—*Typhus Fever*, 1—*Stillborn*, 2—*Bilious Fever*, 1—*Croup*, 1—*Fits*, 1.

DIED.—On the 25th of November last, at his seat at Argenteuil, Grand River, Canada, Dr Benj. Greene, æt. 70, a native of Rhode-Island.

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BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1824.

No. 33.

OBSERVATIONS.

ON THE SLEEP OF INFANTS.

In laying a child to sleep, he should be laid upon the right side oftener than upon the left; but twice in the twenty-four hours, at least, he should be changed to the left side. Laying him on his back when he is awake is enough of that posture, in which alone he can move his legs and arms with freedom. Place the cradle so that the light may come equally on both eyes, which will save him from a custom of squinting.

Infants cannot sleep too long; and it is a favourable symptom, when they enjoy a calm and long continued rest, of which they should by no means be deprived, as this is the greatest support granted to them by nature. A child lives comparatively much faster than an adult; its blood flows more rapidly; and every stimulus operates more powerfully. Sleep promotes a more calm and uniform circulation of the blood, and it facilitates assimilation of the nutriment received.—The horizontal posture, likewise, is the most favourable to the growth and bodily development of the infant.

Sleep ought to be in proportion to the age of the infant. This salutary refreshment should fill up the greater part of a child's existence. A continued watchfulness of twenty-four hours would prove destructive. After the age of six months, the periods of sleep, as well as all other animal functions, may in some degree be regulated; yet, even then, a child should be suffered to sleep the whole night, and several hours both in the morning and afternoon. Mothers and nurses should endeavour to accustom infants, from the time of their birth, to sleep in the night, preferable to the day, and for this purpose they ought to remove all external impressions which may disturb their rest, such as noise, light, &c.; but especially not to obey every call for taking them up, and giving food at improper times. After the second year of their age, they will not instinctively require to sleep in the forenoon, tho' after dinner it may be continued till the third and fourth year of life, if the child shows a particular inclination to repose; because, till that age, the full half of its time may safely be allotted to sleep. From that period, however, it ought to be shortened for the space of one hour with every succeeding year; so that a child of seven years old may sleep about eight, and not exceeding nine hours: this proportion may be continued to the age of adolescence, and even manhood.

SOUL, BODY, AND A CUP OF TEA.

The mysterious connection between soul and body has long been a question among the schoolmen of the middle ages, and the metaphysicians of modern times; and although many endeavours have been made to penetrate that mystery, every hero in philosophy has sunk abashed from the attempt, and covered his disgrace with the same mistiness which hid the object of his pursuit.—Although we cannot trace out the line of connection between these mysterious substances, yet we are all well convinced there exists some elec-

tric conductor between them, by which the limbs tremble to the feelings, and the feelings fret and fume when the nerves are actuated by the application of foreign substances.

If a man doubt this assertion, let him sit down in a drawing room previous to the distribution of the Chinese beverage, and watch the rise of the feelings and the glow of imagination, as the waves of Hyson, and the gentle billows of Sou-chong flow over the rosy lips of the divinities and goddesses which render sacred the apartments. The first flowing of the water into the grand canal did not more gladden the hearts of the brawny husbandmen of the west, than the stream from the eastern infusion raises the heart and lifts up the fancy of the Venuses de Medici of Broadway. What can be compared to the divinity of herbs? It makes an inanimate heart glow with feeling, and a head muddy and confused to emit sparks of intelligence. It gives to the equivocal beauty of thirty all the glow and animation of thirteen; and even the wrinkles of forty-five seem to blow up into twenty years when Kingqua's Chop sends forth its streams, or Namshing has been taught to flow gently over the porcelain.

Are not then our hearty seamen, who convey from the Indian seas so much of the cause of wit and gaiety, as great contributors to the happiness of our countrymen as all the Theatres, and all the managers, and all the actors, with their whole train of stars, cataracts and comets, with which the country abounds? During the last year, there were brought into the country 2,134, 137 pounds of Sou-chong—4,931,722 of Hyson, besides considerable quantities of Bohea, Imperial, and Gunpowder. While our beautiful females are lounging on the sofa by a brilliant evening fire, they little consider that at that very moment the mariners of their country are bringing their wit, their brilliant repartees, through the waves that dashed against the intrepid Goma, or tossed the frail bark of the more intrepid Columbus.—*Nat. Advocate.*

SUPERSTITIONS.

1. Whoever reads epitaphs, loses his memory.
2. Yarn spun by a girl under the age of seven years, possesses extraordinary virtues. Linen made of it furnishes the best bandages for gouty patients; and when wrought into garments, forms a complete coat of mail—not only against the bullet and dagger, but even against the more formidable operations of witchcraft. Nay the very yarn itself can be wound into unerring musquet balls.

3. When a mouse gnaws a gown, some misfortune may be apprehended.

4. When a stranger enters a room, he should be obliged to seat himself, were it only for a moment; as he otherwise takes away the children's sleep with him.

5. The crowing of a hen indicates some approaching disaster.

6. Whoever sneezes at an early hour, either hears some news, or receives some present the same day.

7. Women who sow flax-seed should, during the process, tell some confounded lies; otherwise the yarn will never bleach white. (Qu. Is this the origin of the phrase *white lies*?)

8. Beggar's bread should be given to children who are slow in learning to speak.

9. When women are stuffing bed ticks, the men should not remain in the house; otherwise the feathers will come through the ticks.

10. To rock a cradle, when empty, is injurious to the child.

11. If a child less than a twelvemonth old be brought into a cellar, he becomes fearful.

12. The first tooth cast by a child should be swallowed by the mother, to ensure a new growth of beautiful teeth.

13. A child grows up proud, if suffered to look into a mirror while less than a twelvemonth old.

14. To eat, while the bell is tolling for a funeral, causes tooth-ache.

15. Stepping across a child prevents its growth.

16. The following are omens of death:—a dog's scratching the floor, or howling in a particular manner, or an owl's hooting in the neighbourhood of the house.

17. When a child puts any combustible matter into the fire or candle during the evening, an effect, similar to that produced by chewing dandelion, ensues at night.

18. Buttoning a coat awry, or drawing on a stocking with the inside out, causes matters to go wrong during the entire day.

19. White specks on the nails are lucky.

20. He who has teeth wide asunder must seek his fortune in a distant land.

21. He who purposes moving to a new house, must send in beforehand bread, salt, and a new broom.

22. Domestic harmony must be preserved when washing day comes, in order to ensure fine weather; which is indispensable, as that ceremony is generally performed out of doors.

23. When children play soldiers on the roadside, it forebodes the approach of war.

24. Whoever finds a blade of four leaved trefoil, (shamrock) should wear it for good luck.

25. By bending the hand to the hollow of the arm, the initial letter of the name of one's future spouse is represented.

26. When a female drops her garter on the road, it shows that her husband or lover is faithless.

CHYMICAL COMPOSITION OF FERTILE SOILS.

Fertile soils always consist of certain proportions of aluminous and calcareous earths in a finely divided state, and of vegetable or animal matter.

The quantity of calcareous earths is very various, and in some cases very small; a very fertile corn soil from East Lothain afforded eleven parts in a hundred of calcareous earth, and twenty-five of silicious sand: it however afforded some indications of a small quantity of phosphate of lime, by which its fertility might be in some degree caused, as this substance is found in wheat, oats and barley. It also contained nine

parts of animal or vegetable matter. An equally productive soil from Somersetshire, on the contrary, contained eight ninths of calcareous earth to one ninth of silicious sand, held above five parts in the hundred of vegetable and animal matter, and had no phosphate of lime.

In general bulbous roots require a more sandy soil than grasses, and less attractive of moisture; plants and trees whose roots are hard and fibrous, will thrive best in a soil moderately dry, which does not contain too much animal matter.

ONLY A COLD.

The following case may serve to warn people in the first place from catching cold through their own folly, and from delaying the proper remedies:—A fellow-pupil of ours was about to be married to a deserving and affluent young lady, he having completed his professional studies. The wedding-day was fixed, and the happy couple anticipating all the blessings apparently hovering over their future life, when the lady went to a ball lightly clad. Next morning she was attacked with sore throat, but paid no attention to it, although her lover warned her of her danger, and endeavoured to persuade her to submit to take medicine. She, however, contented herself with saying, it would soon go off—"it was only a cold." In three days more she could not swallow, from the swelling of the internal parts of the throat, and to save her from suffocation an operation was immediately proposed.—This was permitted, and was performed by two of the ablest surgeons, Mr Colles and Mr Dease, of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.—When the tumour was penetrated, that accident which often happens deprived her of life—the contents of the tumour suffocated her.

MORAL CAUSES OF EPIDEMICS.

No. V.

When we see a disease which has always prevailed in some degree in any country, rising at the same moment, in every part of that country, to one of the most extensive, alarming, and malignant epidemics that ever went abroad among the sons of men, we cannot attribute this sudden change of character to causes which have long existed. Equally futile are all attempts to trace it to planetary errations in the heavens, noxious effluvia in the atmosphere, or piles of putrid matter on the surface of the earth. We are driven irresistably to refer it to some cause which affects—not one sea-port or one province—but the whole nation; which has not ever existed, but is incident to the time its consequences are manifest. The disease of which we have spoken assumed this malignant character, at a moment when the state of the people was such as we have represented it—when grief was excessive, and despondency as reckless as it was universal. Where these distresses were earliest, fever appeared first;—where they were greatest, it was most malignant; and when in 1818 the linen trade began to regain its vigour, employment was restored to the poor, and the prospect of a plentiful harvest came to revive the drooping spirits of the people, disease ceased to prevail, & the activity of business and the cheerings of hope induced that bloom of public health which soon restored to the Emerald Isle its verdure and its beauty.

We have dwelt long on the illustrations derived from the late fever in Ireland, as the character of the people is calculated better than that of any other nation, to de-

velope the great influence of mental depression on the physical faculties. In almost every part of France, the blithesome disposition of every class of the community cheers the heart under every affliction, and natural content seems ever to banish despondency. The deformed and wretched mendicant, instead of addressing the feelings of the stranger with the pitiable details of his hard destiny, will run up with a cheerful countenance to his expected benefactor, sing some merry song, and then ask for a *petit liard*, which his tatters alone tell you that he needs. There is implanted in every heart the same buoyant spirit, which effaces every trace of disappointment, and still shines through the darkest cloud which poverty can collect or physical inability blacken. Hence in Paris, where the streets occupied by the lower classes are exceedingly narrow and even in the finest weather, wet and muddy and almost impassable for filth, the lowest and most miserable of those abandoned vagabonds who loiter there in wretchedness and vice, enjoy a constant flush of health, and there is seldom seen a case of that typhus fever which is so constant a disorder in every large city in other countries.

In England a spirit of resentment and rebellion seems always to rise in proportion to the wants of the people. They cry for a change of government, and find a satisfaction in the idea of being heard; they cry aloud for a reform, but derive more pleasure from the consciousness that they have the power of abusing, than they would in the reformation they pretend to claim. This gratification of pride nerves the mind, so that instead of repining at their woes, they rather boast of their oppression.

In Ireland, on the other hand, we see eminently illustrated in their late distresses how differently they are affected by oppression;—instead of threatening, they ask for charity; instead of boasting of their wretchedness, they lament it; instead of rousing them to clamor, their distresses drive them to despondency.

POWER OF FRICTION.

To this good city of Boston, there came, about a year or two ago, a person who professed, as his fathers had done, to have the gift of healing surgical diseases.—Without education, he was up to reducing luxations, adjusting fractures, and curing diseases of the joints which had been chronic for any number of years, and which had resisted the remedies of the most learned and skilful surgeons. This person, we are told, was bred a Blacksmith in a neighbouring State, and exercised the functions of his hardy profession with rather more credit than pecuniary advantage; but being persuaded that he was destined by nature to deal with the more rational part of creation—to give feet and legs to men and women, rather than shoes to horses, he dropped the sledge, and took in good earnest to fomentations, bandages, and friction, which he has recently applied to several of our friends with great effect, and, we must add, in many cases with wonderful success.

We profess to be no believers in miracles, but it is hard to account for some of the surprising and well attested cures which have been wrought by this prodigy. His great panacea is *friction*;—this he applies at all hours, to all persons, in all cases, but only in one manner; the great secret is to rub hard, for a long time, and always downward; that is, from the shoulder towards the fingers—from the thighs towards the feet.—Thus he drives the disease before him until, entirely worried out, it is glad to make its escape though it be

by the very extremity of the nails. *Fomentations* are applied on the same principle;—thus if a man has the *hip disease*, instead of applying blisters, &c. over the part affected, he envelopes the whole leg below in linen kept constantly drenched in a hot decoction of cherry-tree bark, and by rubbing downward five or six times a day, for an hour or so at a time, or until his patient is completely drowned in sweat from extreme pain and exertion to sustain it, he both drives and draws the disease from its covert, and carries it off through the feet. By these powerful means he has given great relief and effected some perfect cures to our own personal knowledge; though for ourselves we must confess we should a little rather have the disease take its flight by means of a blister, by a short cut through the skin, than carried down through the whole limb. The *bandages* are used only to restore strength after the malady is removed.

This man has two or three expressions which he uses on all occasions: thus if a man goes to him with a complaint in the knee which has been the cause of lameness many months, he immediately says "there is a bone out"!!! or "there is a callus formed and it must be broken." However ridiculous these expressions may appear to an anatomist, and however clearly they may demonstrate the perfect ignorance of this man both of human anatomy and physiology, yet two things are certain—first, that these expressions are believed to be literally true by gentlemen of good education, who ought to know better; and secondly, that with his mistaken notions of the structure and functions of the system, the Doctor contrives to cure its diseases;—without any correct theory, his practice has been in some cases surprisingly successful.

A gentleman went to him who had long been on crutches, on account of a disease in the foot; he was immediately told there was a callus there which must be broken; the crutches however were broken first and thrown into the fire—then seizing the foot with both hands, he gave it such a tremendous wrench, that he came near having his own skull broken also, for the enraged patient sprung from his chair, and would have thrown it at the doctor with all violence, but for the intercession of the by-standers. When his pain and his anger had subsided a little, he was directed to walk across the room; without the most remote expectation of being able to execute a task he had not had the power of doing for so long a time, he was induced to make the attempt, and to his great astonishment, succeeded to a charm. This promenade four or five times repeated, he was directed to *walk off*, which he did in a very handsome style, after paying a liberal fee, and being impressed with the most profound gratitude to his cruel benefactor.

Another gentleman had for many years been slightly incommoded by a small osseous tumor on the metacarpal bone of the middle finger. More from curiosity than faith he shew it to the doctor, who applied friction to the arm a few successive days, and then told our friend that his *callus* would shortly disappear—which indeed it did in a very few days.

One of our most respectable citizens, who had been confined to his house for years by a chronic affection of one of the lower extremities, after submitting a while to the terrible rubbing of our hero, was seen to walk down to his counting house without serious inconvenience; ladies who had not been able to dance for several winters, have been enabled by his art to grace the ball with perfect ease to themselves, and great satisfaction to their friends; gentlemen who had been long in the

habit of wearing slings, canes, or crutches, have laid them aside by his means; withered limbs have been restored to their original fulness, and despondent hearts to bright hopes and unexpected buoyancy.

These are all facts, attested by evidence which cannot be got over without denying the validity of human testimony. We believe the great art of this man, who, common candor compels us to say, has been of benefit to many of our citizens, is, that having been formerly a blacksmith he can rub harder than those persons to whom the application of friction is usually entrusted. By this means, free circulation is restored to vessels which had exercised their functions with torpor and debility, and the main-spring of life and strength being thus brought into vigorous action, chronic maladies are overcome, and the natural powers of the system and the part diseased, again assume their wonted ascendancy. Thus may most of his cures be accounted for without involving any mystery; but there are some which stagger our power of explanation, and would appear almost incredible of Prince Hohenlohe himself.

We have no acquaintance with the individual alluded to in these remarks, and they are made without any reference to him personally. The facts have been stated to us, it is true, by his friends and those who have derived benefit at his hands, but they are persons of the highest respectability, and who are entitled to the most implicit belief; and we have thought it our duty to state the case to our readers, merely to show the power of friction—of what immense advantage it often is to the recipient, and how much celebrity it can confer on any one who applies it with force, and perseverance.

REPORTS.

CASES OF POISON.

*Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer,
BY A VALUED CORRESPONDENT.*

It has fallen to my lot, in the course of a short practice, to take charge of several cases of poisons—as many, perhaps, as most individuals who have not been uncommonly favoured with a variety and extent of private practice, or been entrusted with the charge of some public institution. Indeed, these melancholy cases, both from accident and design, are becoming more common, as poisonous substances are more generally made known to the public, and more extensively introduced into practice, as remedies for the cure of disease. Arsenic, mercury, laudanum, and several of the mineral acids, are familiar to almost every household, and pass current, in many hands, for domestic medicines;—while every miscreant, who has designed to shorten his life, or that of others, knows that the very label, which is placed as a shield for his ignorance, is the infallible guide to point out to him the most certain means of accomplishing his destruction. The vegetable and narcotic poisons are used with too great latitude by charlatans and nurses, in domestic practice, and often to such a degree, as to give rise to the severest and most aggravated distress. Some of them, wearing the livery of wholesome fruit, or under the disguise of most beautiful flowers, convey to the unfortunate recipient a poison of the most deadly nature. It becomes the physician, therefore, to be familiar with every variety of these deleterious substances—to learn their nature and qualities, as

well as the antidotes which have been discovered to remedy their effects. Much has lately been written upon this subject, and since the elaborate work of Orfila, and the instructive cases of others upon poisons, their nature has been more fully understood, and their remedies more successfully applied.

In the present paper we shall report those cases only, upon which we happen to have preserved notes, and which appear to us to be the most interesting of those which have occurred.

CICUTA MACULATA. Three children belonging to the same family were poisoned by eating Cicuta, which they had mistaken for Wild Parsnip. One of them who had taken the largest quantity, vomited previous to my arrival, and obtained relief. Another was less affected, and suffered little except from vertigo. The third, who was about seven years old, suffered most severely, and seemed dangerously ill. He soon became cold and inactive; pulse imperceptible; countenance much changed; eyes closed, with dilated pupils; frothing at the mouth; convulsions; tetanus; with oppression at the stomach, and general distress. He was made comfortably warm, and the limbs and body rubbed smartly, while Aq. Ammonia was held to his nostrils, and administered internally to the amount of ten or fifteen drops. He soon revived, when an emetic of Ipecac and Tart. Ant. was prescribed, and by a speedy operation gave relief. Strong coffee, and Ol. Ricini, 3ss. was directed to be given, which operated well, and the patient recovered. Soon after this happened, I learned from a neighbouring practitioner, that he was called about the same time to a young lad, who was poisoned in a similar manner, but not arriving in season to afford relief, the little sufferer grew worse, and finally died. (V. N. E. Journ. of Med. &c. Vol. 3.)

LOBELIA INFLATA. This plant is familiarly known by the name of *Indian Tobacco*, and is a vegetable poison of the most active kind. It is used by empirics and old woman in various complaints, which are often aggravated, and sometimes hastened to a fatal termination. It possesses active emetic properties, and when taken in large doses, produces great pain and distress; and if it does not operate either as an emetic or cathartic, it may prove fatal in the course of a few hours. I once attended a female patient, who had just before my arrival taken two or three drachms of the powder for an emetic. It produced excessive vomiting, which was long continued, and excited considerable alarm. She was in the greatest possible distress. The whole system was violently convulsed, and a cold sweat existed upon the surface. She was left in great debility after the violent action of the poison, but gradually recovered under mild treatment.—Effervescing draughts, in these cases, should be given to allay vomiting, Ol. Ricini or Sulph. Magnes. to remove the remaining poison, and cordials, &c. to restore strength.

LAUDANUM. Two or three years since, I was called to a *fille de joie*, whose feelings had been outraged by some misconduct of her lover, and who had determined to show “proper resentment” by swallowing laudanum. She drank about an ounce in her coffee at breakfast. When I arrived she had been in bed about two hours, and was apparently in a profound sleep; pulse feeble, extremities cold, with tetanus. I gave

immediately Aq. Carb. Ammon. gtt. x. ad xx. in order, if possible, to arouse her for an emetic, which was prepared of Sulph. Zinc, and ordered to be given in divided doses. At the same time I directed the attendants to rub the limbs with flannel and mustard. The emetic had no immediate operation. She grew worse, and became colder; the pulse were sinking; tetanus increased, with deep and frequent sighing. Her sensitive companions now became apprehensive for her safety, and wished her suspended *de more majorum* by the heels, or rolled upon a barrel, &c. I protested, however, and endeavoured to quiet their apprehensions, while another physician could be called. Dr S. a gentleman of much experience and skill in his profession, arrived shortly, and thought proper, in consultation, to apply Camph. Liniment to the spine, and afterwards a piece of flannel, upon which a warm iron was passed, and which, *comme par enchantement*, dissolved the *trismus* and promoted the operation of the emetic. Warmth was restored to her limbs, and she soon recovered, and as I was afterwards informed, exultingly attended the *Theatre* the following evening.

It will be perceived that in the above case, *tetanus* was the principal difficulty; and that the ingenious apparatus recently introduced into practice, for the purpose of removing poisonous and other fluids from the stomach, could not therefore admit of application. Such, indeed, was the degree of *trismus*, when the emetic was first proposed, that it was not without great efforts it could be swallowed. A warm bath, which might have answered a good purpose, could not easily be procured; and unless the above means had been timely suggested, the patient would in all probability have fallen a victim to her own folly.

MERCURY. S. J. a robust negro, aged about 35, complained of excruciating pain in the stomach and bowels; nausea; numbness of the upper and lower extremities; great tenderness of the epigastric region; with a hot and remarkably dry skin. Said he was slightly ill the day previous, and had taken a dose of castor oil and an emetic, which operated gently. About 2 o'clock, the same day, his wife gave him some broth, which affected him so severely at the moment of swallowing it, that he cried out, “you have killed me.” From this moment his pain and vomiting commenced, and continued at intervals, till I saw him early in the morning of the 10th of May.—A powerful emetic was given, which produced copious vomiting and gave temporary relief.—Tested the discharged matter, and found it to contain *corrosive sublimate*. For two days his anxiety, pain and suffering, were almost intolerable. During this time barley-water, linseed tea, milk, whites of eggs beat up with water, &c. were successively employed. The latter afforded the most relief, and in conjunction with cathartics, emollient injections, &c. completed a cure. In the sequel, I learned that about two drs. of the poison had been procured from the apothecary's, and that the greater part of it had been swallowed by the unfortunate sufferer.

ARSENIC. One case only, in which an undue quantity of arsenic had been taken, has fallen to my notice; and this was during my pupilage, and will be found recorded by the attending physician, in one of the numbers of the N. Eng. Med. Journal. It was one of the severest cases, per-

haps, of poison by this substance, in which the patient escaped with life, that has occurred in this country; and it will be seen by referring to the article, that, contrary to the opinion expressed by Orfila, and others who have adopted his notions, charcoal was the chief remedy; and beyond all doubt, preserved the life of the patient.

MINERAL ACIDS. Almost every foreign Journal of Medicine contains one or more cases of poison by these articles; and the Physician is without excuse, if he is unprepared to give immediate relief in similar cases in his own practice. Those, therefore, who are not perfectly familiar with their antidotes, may, in the absence of the more important works of J. Orfila, Paris, &c. find a very useful Lexicological Table in the *Pocket Synopsis of Dr Bartlett*.

INTELLIGENCE.

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE OF BUENOS AYRES.—The first number of the transactions of this society was published in August, 1823. It contains an account of its objects and progress, and several dissertations on important medical subjects. One of the greatest contributors is Don Manuel Mareno, a graduate of the University of Maryland. In the introductory discourse, many compliments are paid to the people of the United States, their policy, scientific institutions, and literati. The academy offers prizes for the best dissertations on certain medical subjects;—the prize for 1824 was a gold medal of the value of two hundred dollars. The seal of the academy represents the temple of Minerva, supported by six columns—the dome surmounted by the sun, and in the centre the genius of liberty with other emblematic devices—on the reverse, *Medicinæ ac Naturalium Scientiarum Bonærensium Academiæ*. The number is in the quarto form, and contains one hundred pages. It is printed on good paper, with a neat type, and its execution in general, whether considered in a literary or mechanical point of view, is such as to give a very favourable impression of the state of science and the arts, in Buenos Ayres. Dr Chapman of Philadelphia, and Dr Mitchell of New-York, are honorary members of the Academy.

MEDICAL DEGREES.—The annual commencement of the Berkshire Medical Institution took place on Thursday last, 23d inst. when the following gentlemen were admitted to the degree of Doctor of Medicine, viz.:—Daniel M. Angell, of Sheffield, Mass.—Dissertation on *Sympathy*. Joseph Ballard, Homer, N. Y.—on *Opium*. John J. Bassett, Greenbush, N. Y.—on *Mania*. Thomas A. Brayton, Adams, Mass.—on *Union by the first Intention*. Nelson Brown, Pittsfield, Mass.—on *Goodyera Pubescens*. Samuel R. Childs, New-Marlbrough, Mass.—on *Hypochondriasis*. Benjamin F. Cleveland, Madison, N. Y.—on *Hydrocele*. Harris Cowdry, Boston—on *Fever*. Erastus Cushing, Lanesborough—on *Conium Maculatum*. Mason C. Darling, Prescott—on *Scrofula*. Morris Dwight, Williamsburgh—on *Medical Advantages derived from the study of Natural History*. Horatio N. Flint, Putney, Vt.—on *Chlorosis*. Silas R. Kellogg, Sheffield—on *the reciprocal Influence of the body on the mind and the mind on the body*. Benjamin F. Kittredge, Hinsdale—on *Gout*. William F. Kittredge, Pittsfield—on *Cynanche Trachealis*. Marcus Merrick, Homer, N. Y.—on *Causes of Diseases*. Oliver S. Root, Pittsfield—*Strictures on Bichat's Theory of the Passions*. Alvan Wheeler, New-Marlbrough—on *the Dignity of Medical Pursuits*. The exercises were highly interesting and satisfactory.

NEW NOSE.—A short time since, a young lad, an apprentice to a plasterer, in Perth, had his nose bitten off

by one of the mail-coach horses. The Taliacotic art of a neighbouring surgeon was put in requisition, and the detached member was restored to its proper situation. The operation, however, had to be performed twice ere the plasterer was fully satisfied of the perpendicularity of the index of his countenance.

LITHOTOMY.—This operation was successfully performed on the 9th inst. in Norridgewock, Me. on Mr J. Wentworth, of Athens, by Dr Bates, of the former place.

VACCINATION IN CHINA.—When Dr Pearson made the Chinese his invaluable present of vaccine inoculation, it was accompanied by a small pamphlet, in Chinese, containing a few necessary directions as to the use of the virus, and stating the discovery to have been English. A purified edition of this little book was very soon after published, in which not one word was retained as to its origin, nor any trace by which it could be known that the discovery was not Chinese.

VELOCITY OF SOUND.—A paper has been read at the Royal Society, giving an account of some experiments lately made in Holland, on the velocity of sound, by Drs G. A. Moll, and A. Van Beck. The experiments were made on the plains of Utrecht; and care was taken to annihilate the effects of the wind. The stations were 9,964 feet apart; and the velocity ascertained by determining the interval between the flash and report of guns by means of clocks with conical pendulums, dividing 24 hours into 10,000,000 parts. The result was, that, at the temperature of 32 degrees, the velocity of sound is 10,897 feet per second.

SEARCH AFTER TRUTH.—A boy, twelve years of age, recently fell into a well 75 feet deep, in Chesterfield-place, Brighton, (Eng.) He had attempted to hold a large bucket, which a man had just drawn up, against the well-curb, until the other could leave the winch to take charge of it. The weight of the bucket dragged him into the well, and into which bucket, in his fall, he must have pitched, as, upon application to the winch, he was brought back in it. In rescuing him from the latter, he narrowly escaped the descent a second time. No bones were broken, but the scalp had been torn from the head, and was hanging over his eyes and face. He is doing well.

ADVANTAGE OF A HAT.—A few weeks since, a young gentleman, about seven years of age, son of a Baronet, in the neighbourhood of Taunton, (Eng.) accidentally fell into a deep pond, and sunk to the bottom. Fortunately, his hat was seen floating by a man at work near the place, who instantly plunged in, and drew the child to the shore, where, by the timely application of the proper remedies, he soon exhibited signs of life, and is now recovered.

METHOD OF IMITATING MAHOGANY.—Any piece of close grained wood may be made so nearly to resemble mahogany, in the texture, density and polish, as to deceive the most accurate judges. First, plane the surface perfectly smooth; rub it with a solution of nitrous acid; then mix together an ounce and a half of dragon's blood, dissolved in a pint of spirits of wine, and one third of that quantity of carbonate of soda; filter it, and lay it on the wood with a soft brush. Repeat it again when dry. When the polish becomes less brilliant than at first, it may be restored by the use of a little cold drawn linseed oil.

LOOKING-GLASSES.—Professor Lancellotti, of Naples, has discovered a new composition for the fabrication of looking-glasses, which unites economy to facility of execution. He employs three parts of lead and two of mercury. This composition is then melted on the heated and dry glass; it attaches strongly to the surface, and the images of objects are faithfully reflected by it; but care must be taken not to let the oxyde which is formed in the fusion of this amalgam, remain between the glass and the metallic surface.

TUSCAN OPINION OF FEVER.—Of all the writers of the day, says Lord Byron, Walter Scott is the least jealous. He is too confident of his own fame to dread the rivalry of others. He does not think of good writing as the Tuscans do about fever, that there is only a certain quantity of it in the world.

PYROLIGINOUS ACID—or Essence of Smoke, is for sale in two or three places in Conn. and in Providence, R. I.

A magistrate of Philadelphia county has actually made a return to the court of quarter sessions in the words following, and the defendant awaits his trial:—“*Doctor A. B. charged on the oath of C. D. with having committed wilful and corrupt purgery.*” We trust so grievous an offence will meet its proper punishment.

The morning following the battle at Yorktown, I had the curiosity to attend the dressings of the wounded, and among others, whose limbs were so much injured as to require amputation, was a musician who had received a musket ball in his knee. As was usual in such cases, preparations were made to lash him down to the table to prevent the possibility of his moving. Says the sufferer, ‘Now, Doctor, what would you be at?’—‘My lad, I am going to take off your leg; and it is necessary you should be lashed down.’ ‘I shall consent to no such thing—you may pluck my heart from my bosom, but you’ll not confine me. Is there a fiddle in the tent? if so, bring it me.’ A violin was furnished, and after tuning it, he said, ‘Now, Doctor, begin;’ and he continued to play, until the operation, which took about forty minutes, was completed, without missing a note, or moving a muscle.

Among the surest symptoms of amendment in a sick person, is the growing indifference he exhibits for the visits of his physician. This observation is illustrated by the following conversation, which passed between Bouvart and a French Marquis, whom he had attended during a long and severe indisposition. As he entered the chamber on a certain occasion, he was thus addressed by his patient:—“Good day to you, Mr Bouvart, I feel quite in spirits, and I think my fever has left me.” “I am sure of it,” replied the Doctor; “the very first expression you used convinces me of it.” “Pray explain yourself.” “Nothing more easy; in the first days of your illness, when your life was in danger, I was your *dearest friend*; as you began to get better, I was your *good Bouvart*; and now I am Mr Bouvart—depend upon it you are quite well.”

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,
Ending December 25; from the Health-Office Returns.

December 18th.—Child of William Stedman; James H. Bent, 4; Lydia L. Parker, 2; Abraham D. Quinn; Solomon Munroe, 72. 19th.—Francis W. Class, 8 mo; Mary S. Cleaves, 25; Charles Webster, 3; Augustus Waterman, 6 mo. 20th.—Catharine Bradford, 40; Alexander Garland, 10 mo; Winslow L. Thom, 2; Michael Boyle. 21st.—Cesar Armon; Eliza Hunton; Nicholas Peirce, 54; Abigail Church, 20. 22d.—Charlotte I. Webb, 4; William Colburn, 55. 23d.—Joseph C. Smith, 17 mo; Eliza Cotton, 52; Aaron D. Hook; John Barrett; Joseph Kinsley, 56. 24th.—Alvin Monger, 7. 25th.—Betsey Bean, 5; Mary Powell; Abigail Capen, 45; Phebe S. Pettingall, 21.

Stillborn, 1—*Quincy*, 1—*Lung Fever*, 6—*Paralytic*, 1—*Fever*, 1—*Dropsy in the Heart*, 1—*Intemperance*, 1—*Consumption*, 3—*Worms*, 1—*Dysentery*, 1—*Mortification*, 1—*Fits*, 1—*Child Bed*, 1.

DIED—In Unity, N. H. Dr William Shaw, aged 58. In Kingston, Dr Amos Gale, aged 56.

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"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1825.

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OBSERVATIONS.

LETTER FROM MISS INDIGO AT WORTHING, TO HER FRIEND MISS MARIA LOUISA MAZARINE, IN LONDON.

"I know very well that those who are commonly called learned women, have lost all manner of credit by their impertinent talkativeness and conceit of themselves;—it is a wrong method and ill choice of books, that makes them just so much the worse for what they have read."—*Swift's Letter to a Young Lady.*

Ah! my dearest Maria Louisa! you who are still enjoying at the Institution the lectures of the most elegant of all professors; you who twice a week have an opportunity of witnessing his ingenious experiments in pneumatics, aerostatics, and hydrostatics, while he explains all the different *ologies* of the alphabet, from anthology to zoology! you who are, perhaps, at this moment inhaling the gas of nitrous oxide or gas of paradise, how do I envy you your sensations and associations! Most joyfully do I sit down to perform my promise of writing an account of my journey to Worthing, not to indulge in the frivolous tittle-tattle to which so many of our sex are addicted, but to attempt a scientific journal worthy of our studies, and of the opportunities afforded us by our constant attendance at so many of the learned lectures in London. Nothing occurred on the road worthy of particular mention; the indications of the barometer, the mean temperature of the thermometer, and the contents of the pluviometer, will be found in the tables which we have agreed to interchange weekly. In the meadows through which we occasionally passed, I observed several fine specimens of the mammalia class of quadrupeds, such as the *bos taurus*, or common ox; the *ovis aries* of Linnæus, or sheep; the *equus caballus*, or horse; the *asinus*, or ass, both Jenny and Jack; and the *capra hircus*, or common goat, both Billy and Nanny. By-the-by, these vulgar methods of discriminating genders are very unscientific, and may often lead to mistakes. Learned language cannot be too precise.

In the hedges, I recognized some curious flowers, particularly the *bellis*, of the order of *polygamia superflua*, vulgo the daisy; the *cardamino*, to which Shakespeare has given the vulgar name of the lady's smock; the *caltha*, or marigold, with its radiated discous flower, to which the lower orders assign a coarser appellation; *culverkeys*, mentioned in Walton's Angler; mithridate mustard, or charlock; the *primula*, or primrose; violets, (you remember Shakespeare's sweet lines—

'Violets dim,
But sweeter than the lids of Juno's eyes,
Or Cytherea's breath;')

loliun and *fumaria*, or darnel and fumatory, ingredients in the wreath of the broken hearted Ophelia; together with several fine specimens of the *cardmus*, or common thistle.

On our arrival at Worthing, we dined with our friends the Tomkins family, where we had the *scapula* of the *ovis*, or a shoulder of mutton, with a sauce of mace, rated *cepa*, two birds of the gallinaceous tribe, served with *sisymbrium*, or water cresses, and the customary vegetables of

brassica, *lactuca*, and *spinacia*, through none of which the aqueous fluid had been sufficiently allowed to percolate. There was also soup which retained so considerable a portion of caloric, that it scalded my palate, *epidermis*, and the *piper nigrum*, or black pepper, with which it was seasoned, occasioned a very unpleasant degree of titillation in the whole of the oral region. In the afternoon, the water in the kettle not having been raised to 212 of Fahrenheit, or that point at which evaporation commences, the *theaviridis*, or green tea, formed an imperfect decoction, in which state, I believe; its diaphoretic qualities are injurious. Mrs Tomkins declared that she never drank any thing herself but the simple element; but I informed her that if she meant water, it was by no means a simple element, but compounded of oxygen and hydrogen: and I availed myself of this opportunity for instructing her that atmospheric air is also a mixture, containing about seventy-three parts of azotic, and twenty-seven of oxygen gas, at which the ignorant creature only exclaimed, "Well, I have seen myself a good many red gashes across the sky, particularly at sunset." She was dressed in a gown woven from the filaments of the *phalaena bombyx*, or silk-worm, died in a red tincture of the small insect called *coccus ilicis* by Linnæus, which is found on the bark of the *quercus coccifera*. By way of changing the conversation, which was turning upon Miss T.'s proficiency in music, I asked her, in allusion to the geological controversy, whether she preferred the Vulcanian or the Neptunian systems, when the silly girl replied with a stare, that she had not heard either of the tunes!!

But, my dearest Maria Louisa, I may confess to you, that I am daily more and more horrified by the sad blunders of Mamma, who has not, like us, received the benefits of scientific instruction, and yet, while she sits at the window knitting, will every now and then catch a word which she fancies she understands, and betray the most pitiable ignorance in her attempts to join the conversation. For instance, while I was this morning explaining to Miss Tomkins the difference between hydrogen and oxygen, she exclaimed, without taking her eyes from the work, "Well, it's a liquor I never taste myself, but in my time, Booth's was reckoned the best gin."—We had been visiting a house in which I complained of an unpleasant empyreuma; "Child!" cried mamma, "I think an empty room a very unpleasant thing, certainly, but you may depend upon it, there was not one in the whole house." While I was maintaining that bismuth and cobalt were different ores, she imagined in her imperfect hearing, and still more deficient comprehension, that I was talking of the two London coaches, and added with a nod, "Yes, my dear, they start at different hours, the Sidmouth at six in the morning, and the Cobourg at eight in the evening." After dinner, I took occasion to observe that cheese was obtained from curd, by separating the whey by expression, when she told me there was no way of expression, no, not all the talking in the world, that would ever

make cheese. Alluding to a short essay I had written upon the reflection of light, she interrupted me by desiring I would not indulge in light reflections, as I should be only subjecting myself to similar remarks from others; and when I was describing a resinous matter obtained by precipitation, she shook her head and exclaimed, "Impossible, child, nothing is ever gotten by precipitation; your poor dear father was always telling you not to do things in such a violent hurry." Upon my explaining to a friend that antimony derived its name from its having been indulged in too freely by some monks, she cried, "There, my dear, you *must* be mistaken, for monks, you know, can have nothing to do with matrimony;" and once when the professor showed me a lump of mineral earth, and I inquired whether it was friable, she ejaculated, "Friable, you simpleton, no, nor boilable neither; why it isn't good to eat." These are but a few specimens of her lamentable ignorance; in point of acute misapprehensions, she exceeds even Mrs Malaprop herself, and you cannot conceive the painful humiliation to which I am constantly subjected by these exposures.

As to experiments, I have not yet ventured upon many, for having occasioned a small solution of continuity in the skin of my fore-finger by an accidental incision, I have been obliged to apply a styptic secured by a ligature. By placing some butter, however, in a temperature of 96, I succeeded in reducing it to a deliquescent state; and by the usual refrigerating process, I believe I should have reconverted it into a gelatine, but that it refused to coagulate, owing, doubtless, to some defect in the apparatus. You are aware that a phosphorescent light emanates from several species of fish in an incipient state of putrefaction, to which has been attributed the iridescent appearance of the sea at certain seasons. For the illustration of this curious property, I hoarded a mackerel in a closet for several days, and it was already beginning to be most interestingly luminous, when mamma, who had for some time been complaining of a horrid stench in the house, discovered my hidden treasure, and ordered a servant to toss it on a dung hill, observing that she expected sooner or later to be poisoned alive by my nasty nonsense. Mamma has no nose for experimental philosophy; no more have I, you will say, for yesterday as I was walking with a prism before my eyes, comparing the different rays of the *spectrum* with Newton's theory, I came full bump against an open door, which drove the sharp edge of the glass against the cartilaginous projection of the nose, occasioning much sternutation, and a considerable discharge of blood from the nasal emunctories. The mucus of the nose is certainly the same substance as our tears, but being more exposed to the air, becomes more viscid, from the mucilage absorbing oxygen. By means of nitrate of silver, I have also formed some crystals of Diana, and I have been eminently successful in making detonating powder, although the last explosion happening to occur at night, just as our next neighbour, Alderman Heavisides,

was reading of the tremendous thunderbolt that fell in the gentleman's garden at Holloway, he took it for granted he had been visited by a similar phenomenon, and in this apprehension shuffled down stairs upon his nether extremity, being prevented from walking by the gout, ejaculating all the way, "Lord have mercy upon us! fire! murder!" Upon discovering the cause of his alarm, he declared that the blue stocking hussey (meaning me) ought to be sent to the tread-mill, and mamma says she fully expects we shall shortly be indicted for a nuisance.

In conchology, I cannot boast of any very important additions to my collection, having encountered few of what Hatchett calls the porcellaneous class, and none of the multivalves.—Among the bivalves, however, I have met with some curious specimens of the *Ostrea edulis*, or common oyster, the *cardium*, or cockle, as well as several of the wrinkle and periwinkle class. While walking with my cousin George, who, as you well know, laughs at all my studies, and loses no opportunity of making a bad pun, we were accosted by a fisherman who asked us to buy some beautiful specimens of the *mytilus*, or common muscle, but George would not let me purchase, declaring that he was a staunch Hellenist, and during the present glorious struggle, would never give the least encouragement to a Mussulman.

But geology, or to speak more accurately, geognosy, my favourite study, ah! my dearest Maria Louisa, could you imagine that I would leave my researches for a moment unprosecuted? No, no, I have pursued them with enthusiasm. Providing myself with a hammer and basket, I mounted a donkey, and, George accompanying me upon his favourite colt, we proceeded to the Downs, where we soon discovered a chalk pit, exhibiting strata of flint in a horizontal direction, and some describing an angle of forty-five degrees, occasioned apparently by a partial subsidence of the soil. Being obliged to beat my donkey severely to get him forward, George observed that I was giving him a specimen of *wacke*, and as the colt whinnied, and the ass made a grunting noise, he added that I might now make addition of *whinstone* and *grunstein* to my collection. A piece of granite in a state of disintegration, displayed an interesting union of quartz, feldspar, and mica; and I stumbled upon a bit of sandstone or grit, divided by fissure in parallelipeds. While I was admiring it, George came galloping up to inform me he had just discovered two beautiful specimens, one of *amygdaloid*, or toadstone, and the other of *primitive trap*; and as I had just been reading of the latter in Mr Jameson's Sketch of the Wernian Geognosy, I eagerly hastened to the spot. Guess my disappointment, my dearest Maria Louisa, when I found the former to consist of a large toad squatted upon a great pebble; and the latter to be nothing but a hole dug in the turf, and provided with a spring to catch wheat ears, which George with a horse-laugh maintained to be an indisputable example of primitive trap.—By way of making amends, however, for this unfeeling joke, he declared, with a very serious face, that he had passed a perfect specimen of quartz, and assisting me to dismount, he clambered with me to the top of a steep hill, and pointing to a sheep pond, appealed to my candid bo-

som whether it did not contain a great many quarts of dirty water.

Being determined to submit no longer to such egregious foolery, feeling moreover considerable craving in the digestive ventricle, and a stiffness in my knees from want of synovia to lubricate the capsular ligaments, I remounted my donkey, made the best of my way home, and have devoted the afternoon to the present narrative of my scientific achievements.

ON RESTORING COLOUR TO THE FACE OF YOUNG LADIES.

1st. Let her go to bed at ten o'clock—nine if she pleases. She must not grumble because she may not sleep for the first night or two, and thus lay ruminating on the nocturnal pleasures from which she has thus cut herself off, but persist steadily for a few nights, when she will find that habit will produce as happy a sleep as that which followed a late ball.

2d. Let her rise about 6 o'clock in the summer, and about 8 in the winter, immediately brush her mouth well with a tooth-brush and cold water, then take a table-spoonful of the following mixture:—

Of decoction of bark, six ounces,
Of tincture of bark, one ounce,
Of diluted sulphuric acid, one drachm.
Mix—after which, breakfast within an hour.

3d. Her breakfast should be something more solid than a cup of trashy tea, and a thin slice of bread and butter. She should take an egg or two, a little cold meat, or a cup of chocolate.

4th. She should not sit reading romances all day by the fire, nor indulge herself with thinking upon the perfidy of false swains, or the despair of a pining damsel, but bustle about, walk or ride, or make puddings; and when she feels hungry, eat a mutton chop or a custard, with a glass of wine.

5th. Let her dine upon mutton or beef without fat, but she need not turn away occasionally from a fowl or any thing equally as good, only observe to drink but little during dinner.

6th. She must not take three or four cups of tea, but one or two, and pretty strong, at about two hours after dinner.

7th. Let her eat a custard for supper, or a basin of sago and wine, or any light thing of the kind, and then in a little time after let her go to bed.

8th. Let her read, if she will read—no di-away love tales, but humorous works, so as to keep the mind unincumbered with heavy thoughts.

APPETITE.

Though appetite for food be the most certain indication that nature requires a supply, yet when irregular, it ought never to be indulged beyond a moderate extent. By slow eating, the stomach suffers a very gradual distention, and the food has sufficient time to be duly prepared by mastication, or chewing in the mouth; and he who observes this simple rule will feel himself satisfied, only after he has received a due proportion of aliment; whilst he who swallows his food *too quickly*, and before it is perfectly chewed, will be apt to imagine he has eaten enough, when the unmasticated provisions merely press on the sides of the stomach; the consequence is that hunger will soon return.

Those who take more exercise in winter than in summer, can also digest more food. But as individuals, leading a sedentary life, usually suffer in winter from a bad state of digestion, owing to a want of exercise, they ought in this season to be more sparing of aliment.

HUNGER AND THIRST.

In famine, life may be protracted, with less pain and misery, by a moderate allowance of water; for the acrimony and putrefaction of the humours are obviated by such dilution, and the lungs are furnished with that moisture which is essential to the performance of their functions. Fontanus relates the history of a woman who obstinately refused to take any sustenance, except twice, during the space of fifty days, at the end of which period she died. But he adds, that she used water by way of drink, though in small quantity. Redi, who made many cruel experiments to ascertain the effect of fasting on fowls, observed, that none were able to support life beyond the ninth day, to whom drink was denied; whereas, one indulged with water, lived more than twenty days. Many other instances might be related of the support of human life, for a time, by water alone.

To those who by their occupations are exposed to the dreadful calamity of hunger, it is of serious importance to be instructed in the means of alleviating it. The American Indians use a composition of the juice of tobacco, and the shells of snails, cockles, and oysters calcined, whenever they undertake a long journey, and are likely to be destitute of provisions. The shells are not burnt into quicklime, but only so as to destroy their tenacity, and to render them fit to be powdered. The mass is dried, and formed into pills, of a proper size to be held between the gum and lip, which, being gradually dissolved and swallowed, blunt the sensation both of hunger and thirst. Tobacco, by its narcotic quality, seems well adapted to counteract the uneasy impressions which the gastric juice makes on the nerves of the stomach when it is empty: and the combination of testaceous powders with it tends to correct the secretion that is supposed to be the chief agent in digestion, and which, if not acid, is always attended by acidity. Certain at least it is, that their operation is both grateful and salutary; for we find that the inhabitants of the East Indies mix them with the betel nut, to the chewing of which they are universally and immoderately addicted. Perhaps such absorbents may be usefully applied, both to divide the doses and to moderate the virulence of the tobacco; for, in the internal exhibition of this plant, much caution is required, as it produces sickness, vertigo, cold clammy sweats, and a train of other formidable symptoms, when taken in too large a quantity.

MORAL CAUSES OF EPIDEMICS.

CONCLUDED.

Causes which produce their effects on the system gradually, are not so much to be dreaded during the prevalence of an epidemic, as those which affect it at the moment. It is hence a fit of anger or a debauch at such a time, renders a person peculiarly susceptible of morbid impressions; hence, too, the great efficacy of all moral causes, and particularly of FEAR, than which we doubt whether there can be named any one cause of

disease more powerful or more universal. When grief and despondency have invited disease from its lurking places, FEAR lends its hand and conducts it to abodes which would else have escaped the unwelcome visit.

It was thus the native hospitality of the people of Ireland tended in a great degree to increase fever among them. The debilitating influence of fear is generally in the inverse ratio of the distance of the danger that excites it. The hospitable feelings of the Irish were too strong to be deadened by the alarms of disease; their pity for the unfortunate increased with the sickness and misery of the mendicants who flocked through the country; and neither the suggestions of prudence, or denunciations from the altar, could prevent them from harbouring the sick and alleviating their sorrows by the distribution of food, and often by personal attendance. Whilst this afforded to the hearts of the benevolent a most delightful satisfaction, it excited in their minds an anxiety and fear of infection, which rendered them highly susceptible of the impression of disease.

A thousand common occurrences which we notice, and a reference to our own private feelings, show us the part FEAR has in promoting the extension and aggravating the symptoms of disease.

It is often remarked that a malignant disease, when it enters a street or a family spares but, few individuals who are connected with it. Some melancholy examples of this fatality are to be found in the history of almost every epidemic. This is usually explained with great readiness by supposing some material cause of infection to be located in the neighbourhood. "It was observed of one house at Cove, near Cork, that every family that occupied it as a dwelling during two successive years, was attacked with fever." There may have been infection in that house—but how unwilling are many persons to enter the house of a *felo-de-se*, or where deluded imagination has placed some haunting spirit; and in this house, after the fate of the first and second family, was there no fear—in Ireland, superstitious Ireland—was there no fear of disease in those who next occupied it? and when these had sickened and died, we might think the house would be deserted—but no—if men are not philosophers enough to disregard the suggestions of superstition, there are always to be found those who have a kind of boasting pride, a bravado spirit, by the influence of which they march into proverbial danger with *apparent* boldness, whilst at the same time they cherish within, a *fear* which is only rendered more constantly present to the mind, and more debilitating to the body, by the pain of concealment; and thus did a fourth family add another link to the fatal chain which seemed to be riveted to that destined spot.

We have seen enough of vulgar life to know how powerfully these circumstances operate on the lower classes of people—how often a story, the birth of a deluded fancy, is made the subject of conversation and wonder by the idle and ignorant, who always love the marvellous, till the phantom loses its ideal nature, and assumes the form and essence of a permanent and local existence.

Other examples, familiar to us all, of the uncommon fatality of an epidemic in a particular house, or some one district only of a large city, are to be attributed to the general panic which the first case excites—not only in the dwelling where it enters—but in the neighbouring families, to the greater degree of fear and anxiety excited by danger when it is near, than when it is more remote. When the novice embarks upon the ocean, he knows what are the dangers to which he may

be exposed; but still so long as the water returns the image of the sun or stars, his spirits rise and his vigor freshens with the breeze; but when clouds obscure the heavens, the tempest lowers, the horizon and the poles are successively hidden by the mountain waves—when the roar of the thunder is drowned by the still more terrible roaring of the deep, and the darkness of night is only blackened by the lightning, and made visible by the shining of the surges as they break around the ship;—it is now he plants his foot firmly on the deck, his trembling hands grasp the sheets, his staring eyes gaze upon the stern, his heart sinks, and his vigour wastes. The same evils he had anticipated with coolness, agitate his mind and weaken his joints when he sees them gathering close around him.

It is thus we hear with comparative indifference that the plague is raging in Asia, or the fever in Ireland; when it reaches our own shores, we listen more attentively to the details of the malady; when it approaches our own town, every eye is cast upon the list of deaths, and rests upon it with anxious eagerness, as if the mind were engaged in calculating the chances of life; but when it approaches our own home, and stalks around our dwelling, we gaze fearfully on its ghastly visage—the whole frame yields to the force of imagination, and involuntarily we throw ourselves into the arms of the monster we would avoid.

If the view we have taken of this subject is correct—if grief, despondency and fear, deserve to be ranked among the most powerful causes of disease, we see that we have not taken all the precautions in our power against the prevalence of an epidemic, when public nuisances are removed. The poorer class must be employed that their spirits may not be permitted to droop; we must not only content them by affording the necessities of life, but cheer, by offering them some of its comforts. Among those of higher rank or fortune, we must divert the attention from the malignant character of the prevailing disease, and dissipate as much as possible those alarms and anxieties which enervate the body as well as the mind. If by these means we do not always prevent disease, we shall at least induce that salutary state of the system which renders it susceptible of all the benefit medicine can afford.

But after all, we have so much reason to believe in the efficacy of these moral causes, that if any one were to ask us how to avoid a contagious disease, we would say—keep your spirits up, think of the sick and visit them as little as possible, and when you do think of them or visit them, do it with a clear conscience, for, as King John says, "to fear a fever gives strength unto a fever."

STRICTURES ON BICHAT'S THEORY OF THE PASSIONS.

By OLIVER S. ROOT, M. D.

Being an Inaugural Discourse for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine, in the Berkshire Med. Institution, Williams College, December 23, 1824.

The terms warm-hearted, cold-hearted, light-hearted, heartless, and the like, have from time immemorial, in both ancient and modern dialects, been used as significant of certain passionate emotions or moral feelings—terms which have obviously arisen from a popular belief that the heart is the organ in which the passions or the feelings that they represent, have their legitimate seat. It is well known that during the influence of several of the passions, as grief, anger, or joy, painful or pleasurable sensations are experienced in the region of the organs to which their source is

referred. Hence Shakespeare has eloquently expressed the emotions of fear by an apostrophe to his heart:—

"Oh me! my heart, my rising heart!"

The propriety of the use of these terms in the language of the poet or orator, cannot be questioned, since they accord with popular belief, and are descriptive of the most obvious symptoms of the predominant feeling. But I shall endeavour to show that they are based on a physiological error, and in philosophy are absurd.

That the superficial observer should refer to the part where sensation was felt the seat of the passion or emotion which excited it, is a natural conclusion and excites no surprise;—but that the philosopher, whose province it is to penetrate the arcana of nature and trace causes to their legitimate effects, should confound sensation with passion, cause with effect, is in my estimation as fanciful and unfounded as the once received opinion that the arteries were only air tubes—that the pineal gland was the seat of the soul—or that the whole sensible world is an ideal nothing.—But this doctrine is supported at the present time, by men whose opinion it may seem impertinent for me to question. Among the physiologists are, MM. Magendie, Richerand, and Bichat, the latter, whose *Researches* are a text book in the hands of almost every physician, and who has laboured more, perhaps, to establish this hypothesis, than any of his cotemporaries. An examination of the arguments deduced by him in its favour, may serve to discover the error under which he laboured.

It remained for Mr B. to discover, that man was not a single individual being, but actually "homo duplex,"—having two distinct lives, as unlike in their phenomena and in the organs that support them, as the principle that animates the highest order of beings is unlike that of the ephemeral fungus in the vegetable kingdom.—The first of these lives he terms animal, and defines it to be that which establishes its numerous relations between man and the surrounding objects. It feels and perceives what surrounds him, reflects his sensations, and by which he communicates his fears, his pleasures and his pains. The brain is the centre or central organ of this life, and is the centre and seat of every thing which has relation to the intelligence or the understanding. In this life, he includes all that elevates man above the gross attributes of matter, the operations of which are distinguished from those material phenomena that take place in the growth and nutrition of a plant.

The second life, Mr B. terms organic, and considers it as common to both animals and vegetables; and defines it to be that by which the functions of circulation, nutrition, respiration, &c. are carried on. The heart he makes the centre of this life in the organs of which, and principally in the heart, he assigns the passions a seat. Here the questions naturally arise—Do vegetables possess passions? Are the passions a material secretion or excretion? a tangible something circulating in the system? Have they no relation to the intellect? none of the attributes of mind?

He then, after saying that the passions enter essentially into our relations with the beings around us, and animate and exalt all the phenomena of animal life, (which virtually brings them within the sphere of his definition of animal life,)

expresses his astonishment that they have neither their end nor origin in its different organs.

Again he asserts that the sensations occasion the passions, and that every sensation has its centre in the brain, but that the brain is never affected by the passions. By what subtleties of logic such seeming contradictions are reconciled, it is difficult to determine. Does the brain in this case become a simple conductor like the nerves, and only transmit the impression to the heart or other organs, where the operations take place that constitute the passions? If so, we are led to inquire why nature, wonderful for the simplicity of all her works, has not established a more direct communication between these organs and the senses? and even ask of what use is the brain in the production of the passions? But we find no order of beings exhibiting any signs of them, that have not a brain, or its equivalent.

That Mr B. had a belief in the existence of such a communication, is evident from his speculations in his next chapter, to account for the muscular actions that take place in a paroxysm of anger, independent of cerebral agency, by supposing that a set of sympathetic relations exist between the heart, liver, &c. and the voluntary organs—making the organs of volition subservient to the influence of those internal organs, without the intermediate excitement of the brain.—Hence motions that under every other circumstance are voluntary, become uncontrollable by the will, and the heart, the liver, the stomach, or even spleen, which experiments have proved to be a non-essential in the animal existence, may usurp the empire of the brain, and exercise an absolute control over the subjects of the will. *To be continued.*

REPORT.

WOUND OF THE NECK.

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer, By LYNDON A. SMITH, M. D. Williamstown, Ms.

S. C. a spare man, aged 45, was found during the last winter, in the road, in the town of Pownel, Vt. apparently dead from an extensive wound of his neck, which had bled most profusely. He was taken to the nearest tavern, about three quarters of a mile distant, and soon showed signs of life. But so dreadful was the wound, so weak was he from the loss of blood, and so chilled, that the by-standers thought nothing could be done, and he accordingly lay five or six hours without any assistance. I was now called, and on examination found a horizontal incision in his neck, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, and separating, almost entirely, the thyroid and cricoid cartilages. Not bleeding so freely as he expected from this wound, he had introduced his knife a second time and cut perpendicularly to the first incision, and (as he afterwards gave me to understand,) with a rotatory motion, such as he had seen butchers use in "sticking a hog." This incision had divided the cricoid and the two first cartilages of the trachea, and had almost detached small pieces of all of them, which with my forceps and scissors I took out.

The blood which had proceeded from the superior laryngeal, and from a branch of the inferior thyroid arteries, was almost wholly stanchd. I took several large coagula from the trachea, which had kept up incessant coughing, and then closed the integuments as well as possible, and

secured them by sutures, adhesive straps, compresses, and a circular bandage. The patient could now articulate some words in a low whisper, and was exceedingly anxious to be cured. I need not detail the remainder of the means used, as they were the usual remedies for simple incised wounds. Suffice it to say, three quarters of the wound healed by the first intention, and the remainder very kindly, by granulation, and the patient is now well, and speaks nearly or quite as well as ever.

INTELLIGENCE.

AN EMBALMED HEAD.—David Bailey, Esq. of Charleston, S. C. having lately received from a relation resident at Sidney, New-Holland, the embalmed head of a New-Zealand Chief, has sent it to the Museum of South-Carolina, in Chalmers-street. This is a very strange production, the sight of which is calculated to excite wonder and admiration. The whole face is tattooed in a manner that may be called both frightful and beautiful, and the countenance is in a state of the most perfect preservation. The hair of the head is long, thick, and bushy, inclining to deep brown. The teeth are uncommonly even, sharp, and good, and the whole ensemble, in short, looks the cannibal and the savage in the highest degree. The preserving art of the New-Zealanders, from this grand specimen, throws the embalming of the Egyptians into contempt. An Egyptian Mummy, at best, is but a death-like, withered form. The preserved head of the New-Zealand Chief, is complete in its features, and death has made no alteration on it. We understand this curious and wonderful production is the gift of a young surgeon. It was first sent by way of Rio de Janeiro, from thence to New-York, and on to Charleston. It was with considerable difficulty the specimen could be obtained, as the natives of the Island are particularly jealous regarding their Morais, or burial places. The head will be kept in the box in which it made its long journey, and will be exhibited to visitors of the Museum, gratis.—A full description of this head, from the pen of a gentleman of learning and science, will appear in a few days.

VETERINARY OPERATION.—In May last, a cow belonging to a farmer of Templeton, Worcester Co. was choked with a raw potatoe. After all the usual means of relief had been found unavailing, Mr Partridge, a medical student, made an incision about six inches in length, through the skin and muscles till he came to the windpipe, into which he made a sufficient opening to extract the potatoe with ease. The wound was then nicely closed by sewing, and the whole secured by lint and bandage, and in a few weeks the cow was completely recovered. Not more than four ounces of blood were lost during the operation.

EFFECTS OF BURNING CHARCOAL.—The mistress of a house in Bordeaux, a short time since, had caused a bath to be prepared, but from some circumstances was prevented taking it. Ursula Delage, a seamstress, expressed a desire to make use of it, which she easily obtained. She shut herself up in the room, where every thing was ready. She drew the water from the cylinder which served to heat it; but the vapours of the coal, which absorbed the atmospheric air, soon produced their sad effect. The poor woman had not probably strength to call, for when they went into the room, she was found in the bath, drowned. A simple opening of the neck was sufficient to prove that death took place rather from the effect of the air, than from the water.

SUFFOCATION.—A Mrs Mair, of Niagara, is said to have lately fallen a victim to an act of carelessness or ignorance, in placing in her bed-room a pan of live coals, and then lying down to sleep. This ought to serve as a warning against a too prevalent practice.

NEW VEGETABLE.—The Editor of the Darien (Geo.) paper, says—"Mr Reuben King last week very politely presented us with a 'Mineral Potatoe?' *Erythrina Erecta*, or *Cherokee Root*; the first, it is presumed, ever found in this part of Georgia. It weighed seven lbs. two and a half ounces; it appears to be a species of the

Sweet Potatoe, but has rather a bitter taste; hogs eat of it with avidity. It is probable that, if cultivated, it would be a valuable article for fattening hogs."

WHITE NEGRO.—The Saratoga Sentinel says, a Virginian Negro, 60 years old, passed through that place a few days since, who has been gradually becoming white for 15 years. Nine tenths of the whole surface of his body and limbs are now as white, smooth and clear, as that of a white person. The first white spot appeared on his finger, 15 years since, and gradually spread over his hand & arm; other spots were afterwards discovered on different parts of his body; these continued to enlarge, and the process is still going on. He has 12 children, all black. There are several instances on record of the colour of negroes being partially changed.

JOURNAL INUTILE, &c. &c.—We acknowledge the receipt of the five numbers of this Journal, which is published weekly, at New-York. The articles are mostly original, written in good French, a lively and spirited style, and on subjects calculated to interest every one who has a taste for belles-lettres. In fact we cannot too highly recommend this Journal, to those particularly who are learning the French language, for it is written in a style of so much ease, that whilst reading some of the dialogues we have almost imagined ourselves in the midst of French society. If the same talents and zeal which are now evinced by its Editors, continue to be brought to its support, it will undoubtedly prove not only a valuable but lasting addition to our literary entertainments, and the arrival of each No. will be anticipated with pleasure and impatience.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending December 31; from the Health-Office Returns.

December 24th.—Hannah Case; George Bracket, 5 mo. 25th.—Charlotte P. Prowse, 22. 26th.—Mary Gibbs, 77; Arthur Hall, 7. 27th.—Margaret Kennedy, 13 mo; ——— Carter; Jane Robinson, 58; Mary Ann P. Eldridge, 22. 28th.—Lott S. Lovelock, 10 weeks. 29th.—Dorcas Norsworthy; Josiah Wheeler, 20; Edward E. Lyon, 1; Nathaniel Nottage, 63. 30th.—Mary Hosea, 19; Abner Lucas. 31st.—Azubah Plantain; Ann Robinson; Alexander Thompson; Joseph Pratt, jun. 2; Mary Ann Phillips; Elijah Lincoln, 29; Martha P. Stacy, 27.

Lung Fever, 3—Consumption, 4—Spasms, 1—Teething, 1—Stillborn, 1—Internal Cancer, 1—Typhus Fever, 2—Bilious Fever, 1—Fits, 1.

Surgical Anatomy.

DR J. V. C. SMITH, Professor of General Anatomy in the Berkshire Medical Institution, will open a course of Lectures and Anatomical Demonstrations, the ensuing week, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and at 7 o'clock in the evening, of each day—provided a sufficient number make application to defray the necessary expenses—pecuniary benefit being no object.

Gentlemen in the study of Medicine, who attend, will be taught the minute anatomy of the brain, the nerves, arteries, muscles, abdominal and thoracic viscera, the anatomy and physiology of the vocal organs, the internal ear, the eye, &c. and the method of pursuing dissections to ascertain morbid affections in every part of the system.

An assistant, amply qualified, will instruct the class in the art of dissecting, injecting with wax and mercury, and the mode of preserving delicate preparations of insects, animals, &c. in such a manner as to exhibit their minute anatomical structure.

The Fee is six dollars, and should any one feel reasonably dissatisfied, the money shall be refunded.

Application for tickets must be made at No. 20, Water-street, between the hours of 2 and 5, P. M.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER :

Published weekly, at two dollars a year. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

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BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II. TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1825. No. 35.

GENERAL ABSTRACT
OF THE
BILL OF MORTALITY FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON,

FROM THE 31ST OF DECEMBER, 1823, TO JANUARY 1, 1825, AGREEABLY TO THE RECORDS KEPT AT THE HEALTH OFFICE.

Table with 18 columns: 1824, Under 1 year, Between 1 & 2, Between 2 & 5, Between 5 & 10, Between 10 & 20, Between 20 & 30, Between 30 & 40, Between 40 & 50, Between 50 & 60, Between 60 & 70, Between 70 & 80, Between 80 & 90, Between 90 & 100, Stillborn, Unknown, TOTAL. Rows for months January to December.

The number of deaths above, include those in the Alms-House, and the City Poor, and were occasioned as follows :—

Table with 3 columns: Cause of death, Number of deaths, Total. Rows include Abscess, Accidental, Apoplexy, Asthma, Atrophy, Bilious Colic, Bleeding at the lungs, Burns, Cancerous Humour, Canker, Canker in the Bowels, Carbuncle, Chicken Pox, Cholera Morbus, Cholera Infantum, Complaint of the Heart, Complication of disorders, Complaint of the Bowels, Consumption, Croup, Debility, Decay of Nature, Decline, Delirium Tremens, Diarrhoea, Diseases unknown, Infantile, Disorder of the Mesenteric Glands, Disorder of the Kidneys, Drinking cold water, Dropsy, of the Head, of the Chest, Drowned, Dysentery, Enlarged Spine, Epilepsy, Fever, Lung, Nervous, Inflammatory, Brain, Pleurisy, Typhus, Fever, Bilious, Puerperal, Putrid, Spotted, Fits, Fungus, Gout, Gravel, Hepatico Gasteritis, Hooping Cough, Hydrothorax, Inflammation, of the Bowels, of the Lungs, of the Stomach, Inflammation of the heart, Insanity, Marasmus, Measles, Mortification, Old Age, Ossification, Palsy, Phthisis Pulmonalis, Pneumonia, Quinzy, Rheumatism, Rupture, Salt Rheum, Scirrhus, Scrofula, Spasms, Stillborn, Strangulated Hernia, Strangury, Sudden, Suicide, Suffocation, Syphilis, Teething, Tetanus, White Swelling, Worms, Wounds.

N. B. There were also three deaths of Yellow Fever, and two of Small-pox, in the Hospital, Rainsford Island.

By order of the Mayor and Aldermen,
SAMUEL H. HEWES, Superintendent of Burial Grounds.

The following Schedule exhibits the number of deaths that have occurred in this city, in each month, since the commencement of the year 1816. The list having been furnished us by the Superintendent of Burial Grounds, is of course officially correct.

Table with 11 columns: Year (1816-1824) and TOTAL. Rows for months January to December.

Boston is situated in 42, 23, 15, N. Lat. and 70, 32, 42, W. Lon. and had, at the time of the last census, 43,893 Inhabitants. The number is probably now 50,000.

OBSERVATIONS.

ON PYROLIGNEOUS ACID.

By GEORGE HOUSTON, of New-York.

The most valuable use to which this acid may be applied, is that of curing meat of every description, so as to preserve it from flies, and from putrefaction in hot weather. It has been ascertained by innumerable experiments, that it contains the same properties of preserving animal matters, as smoking them by wood does; and that the only difference in using it and drying by the present mode, is merely in the application. In the one case, the meat is acted on during the distillation of the acid while the wood is burning in the smoke house; in the other, the acid, already formed, is applied by immersion or by the brush.

Since the experiments of Mr Stotze, at Halie, several successful applications of the acid, in this way, have been noticed in the English journals. Two specimens of meat were, some time ago, exhibited at a meeting of the Philosophical Society, Whitehaven, which had been prepared with the acid on the 7th September, 1819. One of the pieces had been taken to the West Indies to try the effect of the climate, and the other was hung up at home. After the lapse of fifteen months, (i. e. January, 1821) they were tasted by all the members of the Society, and found to be perfectly sweet, fresh, and fit for use. Our journals also have mentioned instances where the acid has been used in the preparation of meat, and the result has been equally satisfactory. But nothing has appeared of a positive nature, in either country, by which the mode of applying it could be distinctly understood. In one instance, the acid was put into the tub after the meat had been sufficiently saturated with the pickle; and in another, it was not applied till after it was removed from the tub, and had hung in the open air for a day or two. The quantity of the acid used, has likewise been differently estimated according to the different modes of preparation which have been adopted.

With the view of satisfying myself on the subject, I caused six pieces of beef usually selected for smoking, and weighing about 15lbs. each, to be cured with salt, saltpetre, and sugar, in the ordinary way, and when they had been about four weeks in the pickle, they were taken out and hung up for twenty-four hours; after which they were moistened by a brush, with nearly a quart of the acid. In a few days they had all the appearance of smoked beef, and, when cut in slices, no difference whatever could be discovered between them in flavour or taste. Some hams and tongues, prepared in the same manner, showed a similar result.

In point of economy, the difference in the two modes is very striking. The expense of smoking a hundred weight of meat, is $37\frac{1}{2}$ cents; the cost of the acid for the same quantity, is only six cents. But what is of still greater importance is, that when meat returns from the smoke house, it generally weighs about a third less than when sent thither. Prepared with the acid, no diminution in the weight takes place; while the juices of the beef and hams, which are dried up by the fire of the smoke house, are entirely preserved in the new process. Add to this, that in using the acid there is no danger of the meat being changed, or of its passing through the hands

of persons who may not be altogether attentive to cleanliness—considerations which are of no small importance to those who are careful in regulating their household affairs.

Accompanying this communication is a piece of beef, prepared by me about two months ago, and a part of the acid used by me on that occasion. The beef has been fully exposed during the whole of that period, and although the weather has not been so warm as is usual at this season, I have no doubt that it is unassailable by flies, in the hottest part of the year. When sliced and broiled, it relishes as well as the best beef-steak.

The acid is in the same state in which it was when it first came from the still. It is divested of its colour by subsequent distillation; but as this deprives it of its essential oil, (the cause of the smoky flavor given to the meat,) any alteration in its present state must diminish that flavour, and probably, materially affect its antiseptic qualities; consequently, render it unfit for curing meat.

I have been assured that fish may be preserved for any length of time, by the Pyroligneous Acid. This appears extremely probable. Salmon, shad and herrings, are cured in smoke houses, in the same way that meat is cured; and there seems no doubt that the acid would produce a similar effect. It might also be used to preserve beef and pork for a considerable period, without the trouble and expense of salting.

May 20, 1824.

CURIOUS PETITION OF A MAN AFFLICTED WITH THE KING'S EVIL.

PORTSMOUTH, THE 7TH OF SEPT. 1687.

To the much honred court now siting in said Portsmouth, for the prouinc of Newhampshir.

The humbel petishon of William Houchins, on of his magesty subgicts belonging to said prouince, humbly seweth for aduic, ade and releff in his deplorabell estat and condition.

That whareas it has plesed God to lay his hand upon him, and that hee is in such a condition not being abell to help him self, as to the getting a living or proquering help or remedy for my distemper, being low in the world, and hauing useed all the means and aduic posabell for nere five year past; hauing bin informed by som that that it is a destemper caled the *king's euill*,* so can not be quered but by his magesty. Hauing littell or nothing in this world, if my liff should go for it am not abell to transport my self for England to his magesty for releff: tharefor humbly and hartly beg the help, ade and assistanc of this honred cort, that thay would so far commiserat my deplorabell condition as order som way ether by breff or any other way that youer honers shall think most meet to moue the harts of all cristen people with compation to besto somthing uppon mee, to transport mee from

* It was a received opinion in that day that the distemper called the king's evil could be cured only by the royal touch. The following advertisement is taken from an old London Gazette.

"These are to give notice, that the weather growing warme, his majesty will not touch any more for the evil till towards Michaelmass. And his majesty's chirurgens desire, to prevent his majesty being defrauded, that greater care be taken for the future registering certificates given to such as come to be touched."—*Lond. Gaz. May 29, 1682.*

BELNAP.

England, whar, God willing, I intend forth with to goo if posabell, but without help not posabell. This humbly leuing my self in the sad condition I am in, trusting in God and youer honers for help and aduice, subscrib youer por deplorabell seruaut,
WILLIAM HOUCHINS.

ON THE THEORY OF SENSATION.

By the *Senses*, we understand those powers by which the living principle within an animal body, holds communion with the material world, or those bodies which surround it. By the influence of these faculties we are enabled to receive those simple sensations, as they are termed, which constitute the elements of thoughts and ideas, and through them, are found the only means of developing and unfolding the latent powers of the mind. We are so accustomed and so familiarized with the operations of our senses, and that too from infancy, that they are quite unimportant in point of curiosity, for we rarely attend to, and still more seldom remember, their first intimations: in more advanced age, we are still diverted from a contemplation of them; and even those few physiologists who have devoted considerable labour to the investigation of their laws, have found them so much obscured and so frequently altered by habit, that nothing certain with regard to early impressions has come of their researches, and we are still obliged to speak of the senses as they exist in the adult, when all parts of the system are matured, and habits of association contracted and confirmed.

In aiming to study nature, we are too apt to study every thing else; imagination runs us into error—and although philosophical research creates a lively feeling of wonder in the commencement of our investigations, fanciful theories, false inductions, and impatience, soon put a period to further progress in the road to truth.—Direct our inquiries wherever we may be inclined, either to the nature of plants, geological phenomena, astronomical surveys, or to the equally elevated science of anatomy, there are boundaries which are impassable—so that we oftener become discouraged in pursuing what we conceive an exalted, useful, or noble design, than we become masters of any important or certain laws.

Perhaps there is no one subject that presents more obstacles to the physiologist—no subject more involved in mystery, than the five senses of hearing, seeing, feeling, smelling and tasting.

The minute anatomy of the eye is well known—but it is utterly impossible to tell how or why we see. The ear,—a masterly organ, made of labyrinth beyond labyrinth, can be completely exhibited in its several parts, and all the minutiae of vascular tissue, nervous cords, muscular and bony connections, and the effects of sonorous rays, and even the exact manner in which they are reflected from one sonorous body to another may be clearly illustrated; yet we can no more explain why we hear, or how the sensorium takes cognizance of sounds, than we can explain the phenomena of gestation. Feeling, equally defies the scrutiny of physiologists and anatomists, as well as philosophers. There are nerves, and we know they are the instruments of feeling, from the fact that a division of them cuts off all communication between the muscles and the encephalon. We also perceive that the *vis insita*, a principle that maintains the power and controls the action of the fibres, is extinguished by this operation; but how we feel, how we are conscious of impressions, is a secret that will probably never be revealed. Tasting is still a blinder subject. To taste—to have the faculty of

distinguishing the qualities of bodies by bringing them in contact with the mouth, is truly wonderful and equally inexplicable. Such are among the secrets of the Creator: the man who can meditate on one of these faculties, viewing it in all its bearings and with a proper temper of mind, must, though he were a confirmed sceptic, confess the existence of a supreme Intelligence.

The apparatus of the ear far exceeds that of the organ of smelling, in intricacy of structure. There are bones, tubes, muscles, ligaments, cylinders, and circles of tubes, which have a mutual dependence upon each other. The gustatory nerve, distributed to the apex of the tongue, which is the immediate twig that conveys the sense of taste, appears more simple and at the same time conveys the idea that this sense is of less importance to the animal than some other senses; and we can judge of the real value of any one organ of sense, by the means which nature has taken to establish and preserve it—and since the ear far surpasses any individual organ of sense, we may conclude, most reasonably, that it is one of the most essential to every animal, whether an inhabitant of the fathomless depths of the ocean, the lofty summits of the mountains, or destined, like the reptile, to crawl in the dust of the valley. The conjoint operation of several senses, produces an indefinable agreeableness, which has been termed a sixth sense. It was formerly the opinion of Spalanzani, that animals which seek their prey in the air, without the aid of light, possessed a sixth sense also, but which has no sort of analogy to the sixth sense of man. M. Cuvier, however, has satisfactorily ascertained the fact, that the bat and the owl are governed altogether by the sense of touch, and not by the eye nor a supposed sixth sense. Mr Jacobson once reported to the French Academy that he had discovered a sixth sense in quadrupeds, emanating from, or rather residing in the foramen incisivum, just within the upper jaw; but as he never exhibited an organ in which it resided, nor even explained the use of another sense, the subject has died with its author, without exciting even the curiosity of physiologists of the present age, any more than it did the attention of his cotemporaries.

It is said that sensations form the first part of the relations of life, and that they establish our passive connections with surrounding bodies. The term passive is only received in a limited sense—for sensation, as well as other functions of the animal economy, is the result of the action of the organs, and is therefore in a certain degree active; but every substance in existence is capable of acting upon our senses; indeed it is by this action alone we can determine the existence of any object, and hence are the powers of sense passive with regard to the external world.

The organs of sensation are constituted of an exterior, which exhibits peculiar physical properties, in common with other bodies—and also of nerves, which are the immediate instruments of sensation, and serve to receive impressions and transmit them unimpaired to the brain. The *first*, or exterior apparatus of the ear and eye, for example, are perfectly simple in appearance, but examination proves them among the most beautiful and complicated organs. The relations between their physical properties and those of other bodies is such, that the least alteration in the one or the other, produces a particular derangement of function. Our general sensations are said to be founded on our general knowledge of facts. The *second* order of parts of the organs of sense, is made up of the nerves;—hence the outer ear may be called a preparatory organ, and the auditory nerve the essential organ of the sense

of hearing. Every nerve has a communication with the encephalon through the medium of ganglia, and its other extremity is connected or variously distributed with some organ of sense.

Many writers have undertaken to prove that the nerves originate from organs remote from the cranium, and are terminated in the brain; but the most reasonable belief is that the pulp of a nerve is a prolongation of the brain itself. A mechanical explanation of sensations is somewhat difficult, but in consists more or less in the application of the laws of physics and chemistry, to the physical properties of that part of an organ which is placed before, or in contact with a nerve. We ridicule the opinions of the ancients because they considered them the conductors of animal spirits;—but the physiology of modern times, with all the advantages of the sciences, proves nothing more; in the prevailing opinions of physiologists on the subject of the sensations, as well as in the form and colour of their coats and hats, there seems to have been a revolving fashion, so that after the theories on theories which have been adopted in different ages, we have got back at last to the simple doctrine of the ancients.

ON THE MARROW.

This has been one of the many subjects on which the eyes of both anatomists and physiologists seem ever to have been closed. There is a peculiar kind of economy every where exhibited in nature's works—inanimate as well as animate; but there are certain provisions in the structure of living bodies, for their security, and many astonishing operations, concealed from every eye, (save His who gave them being,) which are a never failing source of delight to the philosopher, when he becomes acquainted with them, although he is incapable of ascertaining the rationale of their phenomena.—Of this class is that of which we now speak. There is nothing in the whole system that bears stronger evidence of the care of a superintending Providence, than the formation of the marrow—for this substance is in reality nothing more than the most perfectly nutritious food, stored up in the cavities of the bones, to support the body and supply the continual waste of excretion, when all the sources of maintaining life by aliment, are withheld. Strange as it may appear, experiments have established the truth of the assertion, that one ounce of marrow, from a cylindrical bone—as the leg, or arm—contains more nourishment than six pounds of meat, and in that peculiar state of preparation, that almost every portion of it will be assimilated with the circulating fluids, without affording a debris that equals the ninety-ninth part of the quantity received into the stomach, in any given time. Hence the French, from the preference they give to soups made of bones, are not only the most economical cooks in the world, but strictly philosophical, for they found their choice on the doctrine that marrow makes health.

We will not attempt to relate all the absurd notions respecting the marrow which are recorded in professed books of anatomy, nor exert ourselves to tell one half of the opinions we have heard advanced by different anatomical instructors—for the one would be a tedious recital, and the other only excite contempt and ridicule; and it is for this reason we are induced briefly to give our own views, without any reference to the hypotheses of others.

The marrow is secreted by small arteries, and contained within regularly spherical sacks, and as hollow cylinders of bone will sustain more weight, and are less liable to fractures than a solid column of the same ma-

terials, nature has secured a double economy by creating cavities in the cylindrical bones, and filling them with this substance, which is undoubtedly more nutritious than the corpus adiposum, which is thrown loosely over the muscular tissue, on the external parts of the body. When from a long course of sickness a person becomes emaciated, the natural conclusion is that he has been sustained by his own body, because a gradual absorption of the soft solids has been the natural result of diminishing the ordinary quantity of food. Thus it is with domestic animals—and hence it is no uncommon question what becomes of the flesh of the horse and the ox, when they decline from an excellent condition to that of the grey-hound.

The marrow is rarely taken up by the absorbents until all the adipocire is exhausted, and then life is almost wholly maintained by it. This can be illustrated in consumptive patients, whose bodies have scarcely any thing remaining but the bare muscles and bones, yet they do not receive a third part of the necessary nourishment by the œsophagus. In this melancholy state, it is not uncommon to have the individual linger for several months, even till the absorption of the marrow is so complete, that a merely parti-coloured fluid is found in the sacs formerly containing a rich and oily substance; from all which we are inclined to attach great importance to this hitherto neglected and ambiguous portion of our anatomy.

STRICTURES ON BICHAT'S THEORY OF THE PASSIONS.

By OLIVER S. ROOT, M. D.

Being an Inaugural Discourse for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine, in the Berkshire Med. Institution, Williams College, December 23, 1824.

(Concluded from page 140.)

Without one fact to support the hypothesis, these propositions rest upon the supposition that there exists a direct nervous communication between these organs, and the muscles by whose agency these motions are performed. How chimerical this! when it is demonstrable that the voluntary muscles derive their nerves from the brain or its appendage, and when this nervous connection is destroyed they are paralyzed forever. But admitting there is such a sympathetic communication—what kind of motions could be expected from a sympathy with those non-intelligent organs, but irregular, undefined, spasmodic movements, similar to those that occur in diseases of the internal organs? The organ of mind being passive, they could be directed by no design, and tend to no rational object. The coward would fail to use his legs when danger was near, and the mad man plunge a dagger into his own, instead of the offender's heart. As well might we expect that the morbid motions in St Vitus' dance would produce the concords of a given air upon a keyed instrument, as that the locomotive muscles would act involuntarily with sufficient harmony to accomplish any intention.

Thus the data on which Mr B. starts that the passions are distinct from the intellect, are wholly gratuitous—his arguments, many of them, deduced from hypothesis instead of facts—and his conclusions astonish even himself, at the seeming absurdity of his propositions.

Here I would humbly submit a few arguments, that in my mind lead to very different conclusions, as to the seat of the passions.

First, the brain is the organ of mind. The passions are inseparable from mind, and are

clearly the result of its operations. It is by the agency of some of the faculties of the understanding, that exciting causes bring the passions into action. The organs of internal life are as perfect, and perform the same circle of functions in the child as in the adult: the one smiles with a dagger at its breast, while the other trembles with fear, and if reason holds her seat takes measures to resist or avoid the danger. Why this difference?—since like causes, acting under similar circumstances, produce like effects—but that in the former the understanding is a blank, and in the latter all its faculties conspire to excite the emotion. Association awakens in him the remembrance of some painful scene, some horrid tale, or previous suffering. The judgment contemplates the scene, compares the circumstances, and estimates the danger; while imagination pictures death before him in all its frightful forms, and speculates with the lightning's rapidity on what awaits him in an unknown future world. The soldier, who for the first time faces an enemy, lacks experience and overrates the danger; while the aged veteran coolly calculates the chances of life and death, graduates his fears, and feels as little alarm at the sound of a cannon-ball that doffs his cap, as the astronomer at the appearance of a comet or the flight of a meteor.

An analysis of grief, or any of the other passions, would find them composed of, or involving some of the faculties of the mind. But a metaphysical analysis of the passions would be superfluous, any farther than to show their identity with mind, and to exhibit their relation to the intellect.

If then the passions in their exercise imply an intellectual effort, and are constituted of the faculties of the mind, they must necessarily have their seat in common with it. And it is in the brain the first changes are wrought by the passions, after the transmission of impressions by the nerves.

The sensations that indicate the kind and degree of emotion, are experienced in organs which derive their nerves and energy from the brain, or its elongation, the functions of which, are necessarily essentially influenced by the state of that organ. These sensations arise from an altered action of the organ experiencing them, as a consequence of the change of action in the brain, and not from a specific and direct effect of the predominant passion. Intense thought, or extreme intellectual exercise, exerts, if not as prompt, as great an influence over the internal organs, of which a demonstration is seen in the scholar's pale countenance and emaciated frame. Shakespeare's admirable description of Lear's extreme grief, by the simple petition—

"Undo this button, friend,"

although the most laboured sentence would not have so well expressed it, described only an oppression at the præcordia, that is common to a great variety of diseases. Sighing is not peculiar to grief, but is a symptom of several diseases. Who has not left a meal untasted at the arrival of painful intelligence? Is the stomach the seat of grief? Is the skin the seat of fear, because that passion extends its influence to it, in producing paleness and shrinking? These secondary effects are not confined to any one set of organs, but all participate. The influence of the mind over the body is extensive, and this influence is reciprocal; hence diseases, or the pre-

dominant action of any one organ, or set of organs, increase or diminish the susceptibility to certain impressions, which give rise to the temperaments; but all impressions made upon the mind, must take place through the medium of the brain, producing some physical change in its action. What this change is, is foreign to the subject of inquiry.

By what mysterious operation, or by what affinity, external visible things are assimilated with our internal thoughts, and become the components of the images, emotions and passions, which compose that subtle compound, "that name without a thing,"—mind, would be an inquiry purely *muta physis*.

The brain is obviously the intellectual laboratory where all these compositions and decompositions take place, from which result—sometimes the regular combination for systematic thought, sometimes the effervescence of pride and vanity, and sometimes the explosions of insanity.

It is impossible to conceive of an agent's accomplishing any intention without absolute physical motion; and in contemplating this organ and its phenomena, the belief is irresistibly forced upon us, that all the operations of mind, every thought, if not the immediate consequence, is accompanied by some physical change; but how a material agent acts upon, and produces an immaterial, is too subtle for conjecture. Here, as in the examination of all natural causes, we arrive at ultimate principles, the operation of which eludes the ken of human scrutiny.

INTELLIGENCE.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE BERKSHIRE MEDICAL INSTITUTION.—On the morning of the Commencement, the candidates for degrees read and defended their dissertations publicly, in the meeting-house. The dissertations exhibited scientific acquisition and reflection, combined with a very classic style of composition. In the afternoon the more public exercises were held. The Rev. Dr Shepherd opened the exercises by an appropriate and affecting prayer. Singing was performed by a numerous choir, in its usual good style, led by Mr James Warriner. An Address was delivered by the Rev. Mr Bailey, on the principles and formation of character, especially of persons following the medical profession. It commanded the attention of a respectable audience. The trustees voted to request a copy for the press.—A most affectionate and interesting valedictory to the graduates was then pronounced by Professor Dewy. On the close of the exercises, the procession was re-formed, and repaired to the public house of Joseph Merrick, Esq. where a most elegant dinner was prepared—to partake of which, were invited, as guests, the Trustees of Williams College, the Rev. Clergy, Physicians, the Graduates, and other gentlemen. The whole party was in fine spirits, and the table cheered with lively and appropriate sentiments.—In consequence of a donation made by Joseph Shearer, Esq. the trustees of the Institution intend offering premiums for the best dissertations, to be exhibited at the close of the next lecture term.—We are happy to learn that the recovery of Professor Dewy's health will enable him to discharge the duties of his professorship in the Institution the next lecture term; and that arrangements are making which will secure the permanent attachment of Dr De Lamatter to the School.

On the evening preceding Commencement, a supper was given by the Faculty of the Institution, to the students, and to the citizens of the town, invited as guests. The supper was served up in good style, by Mr John Pomeroy, at the Institution. On partaking the wine, many fine sentiments were given, which alone can make the banquet "a feast of reason and the flow of soul."

LONGEVITY.—Within these last eight years, says the Canada Spectator, there have died in the village of Cogonawaga, ten Indians, each of them past a hundred

years of age. Some days ago, the Curate buried a woman, aged 106. There is now living a Squaw who has her descendants to the fifth generation; in other words, the child has now living, her mother, grandmother, grandmother's mother, and grandmother's grandmother. It may be worthy of remarking, that the life of these people, is made up of a singular mixture of idleness and hardship, and upwards of ninety meals in an hundred consist of Indian corn maize, cooked in a manner peculiar to Indians.

FEVER AT CALCUTTA.—An epidemic fever prevailed almost universally in Calcutta, in July last; there was scarce a house in the place but had three or four of the family laid up with it. The fever is represented to be neither malignant nor contagious, and is attributed to the humidity of the atmosphere, consequent to continued heavy rains, which had prevailed for little intermission for seven or eight weeks.

CRANDEL'S SALVE.—The following is the recipe for this salve, which is so well known, and so highly extolled for the cure of wounds bruises, &c. Take neat's foot and linseed oil, each one gill—white and red lead each one quarter of a pound—gum myrrh and camphor, each half an ounce—yellow wax, half an oz.—rosin, three ounces—alcohol, one ounce. Boil the neat's foot oil till it has done sparkling, stirring it at the same time—then add the linseed oil, then the white lead, stirring it till it begins to rise—then add the red lead, and boil it till the colour changes; let it cool and add the other ingredients, dropping in the alcohol gradually till it is cooled, and completed.

ILLUSTRATION OF THE PHOSPHORESCENCE OF THE OCEAN.—Pour a little phosphuretted ether on a lump of sugar, and drop it into a glass of tepid water. In a dark place the surface of the water will become very soon luminous, and if it be moved by blowing gently with the mouth, beautiful and brilliant undulations of the surface will be visible, exhibiting the appearance of liquid combustion. Those who cannot see the ocean in a flame may adopt this feeble mode of imitating it, and it will serve to give them a faint idea of a phenomenon which has called forth the admiration of all who have ever seen it, and which has been recorded by Lord Byron in noble poetry.—*The Chemist*.

MEDICAL ALMANACK.—We have seen a publication with this title, which has recently appeared at New-York. It appears to us only remarkable for containing in a few pages more nonsense than we recollect ever to have seen compressed into the same space.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,
Ending January 7th; from the Health-Office Returns.

January 2d.—Lewis Bacon, 35. 3d.—James Johnson, 96; Richard Fellows, 45. 4th.—Diana Woodson, 83. 5th.—Mary Sinnes; ——— Conden; Betsey Barrett, 35. 6th.—Charles Waterman, 20 mo. 7th.—Samuel Flowen, 3; Matilda Ann Baldwin, 3; ——— Donovan; Jane Thomas, 70.

Apoplexy, 1—Mortification, 1—Complaint of the Head, 1—Old age, 2—Stillborn, 2—Fever, 1—Croup, 1—Lung Fever, 1.

DIED—At Gainsville, N. Y. Dr John W. Brownson. In Dorchester, Dr James Baker, aged 85.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER:

Two dollars a year, payable in advance. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

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BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1825.

No. 36.

OBSERVATIONS.

QUALITIES OF THE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE FOOD COMMONLY USED IN DIET.

BEEF.

When this is the flesh of a bullock of middle age, it affords good and strong nourishment, and is peculiarly well adapted to those who labour, or take much exercise. It will often sit easy upon stomachs that can digest no other kind of food: and its fat is almost as easily digested as that of veal.

VEAL

is a proper food for persons recovering from indisposition, and may even be given to febrile patients in a very weak state; but it affords less nourishment than the flesh of the same animal in a state of maturity. The fat of it is lighter than that of any other animal, and shows the least disposition to putrescency. Veal is a very suitable food in costive habit; but of all meat it is the least calculated for removing acidity from the stomach.

MUTTON,

from the age of four to six years, and fed on dry pasture, is an excellent meat. It is of a middle kind between the firmness of beef and the tenderness of veal. The lean part of mutton, however, is the most nourishing and conducive to health; the fat being hard of digestion. The head of the sheep, especially when divested of the skin, is very tender; and the feet, on account of the jelly they contain, are highly nutritive.

LAMB

is not so nourishing as mutton; but it is light, and extremely suitable to delicate stomachs.

HOUSE-LAMB,

though much esteemed by many, possesses the bad qualities common to the flesh of all animals reared in an unnatural manner.

PORK

affords rich and substantial nourishment; and its juices are wholesome when properly fed, and when the animal enjoys pure air and exercise.—But the flesh of hogs reared in towns, is both hard of digestion and unwholesome. Pork is particularly improper for those who are liable to any foulness of the skin.—It is almost proverbial, that a dram is good for promoting its digestion: but this is an erroneous notion; for though a dram may give a momentary stimulus to the coats of the stomach, it tends to harden the flesh, and of course to make it more indigestible.

SMOKED HAMS

are a strong kind of meat, and rather fit for a relish than for diet. It is the quality of all salted meat that the fibres become rigid, and therefore more difficult of digestion; and when to this is added smoking, the heat of the chimney occasions the salt to concentrate, and the fat between the muscles sometimes to become rancid.

BACON

is also of an indigestible quality, and is apt to turn rancid on weak stomachs; but for those in health it is an excellent food, especially when

used with fowl or veal, or even eaten with peas, cabbages, or cauliflowers.

GOAT'S FLESH

is hard and indigestible; but that of kids is tender, as well as delicious, and affords good nourishment.

VENISON,

or the flesh of deer, and that of hares, is of a nourishing quality, but is liable to the inconvenience, that, though much disposed to putrescency of itself, it must be kept for a little time before it becomes tender.

THE BLOOD OF ANIMALS

is used as an aliment by the common people, but they could not long subsist upon it, unless mixed with oatmeal, &c.; for it is not very soluble, alone, by the digestive powers of the human stomach, and therefore cannot prove nourishing.

MILK

is of very different consistence in different animals; but that of cows being the kind used in diet, is at present the object of our attention.—Milk, where it agrees with the stomach, affords excellent nourishment for those who are weak, and cannot digest other aliments. It does not readily become putrid, but it is apt to become sour on the stomach, and thence to produce flatulence, heart-burn, or gripes, and in some constitutions, a looseness. The best milk is from a cow at three or four years of age, about two months after producing a calf. It is lighter, but more watery, than the milk of sheep and goats; while, on the other hand, it is more thick and heavy than the milk of asses and mares, which are next in consistence to human milk.

On account of the acid which is generated after digestion, milk coagulates in all stomachs; but the caseous or cheesy part is again dissolved by the digestive juices, and rendered fit for the purposes of nutrition. It is improper to eat acid substances with milk, as these would tend to prevent the due digestion of it.

CREAM

is very nourishing, but, on account of its fatness, is difficult to be digested in weak stomachs. Violent exercise after eating it, will, in a little time, convert it into butter.

BUTTER.

Some writers inveigh against the use of butter as universally pernicious; but they might with equal reason condemn all vegetable oils, which form a considerable part of diet in the southern climates, and seem to have been beneficially intended by nature for that purpose. Butter, like every other oily substance, has doubtless a relaxing quality, and if long retained in the stomach, is liable to become rancid; but, if eaten in moderation, it will not produce those effects. It is, however, improper in bilious constitutions. The worst consequence produced by butter, when eaten with bread is, that it obstructs the discharge of the saliva in the act of mastication or chewing; by which means the food is not so easily digested. To obviate this effect, it would be a commendable practice at breakfast, first to eat some dry bread, and chew it well, till the salivary glands were exhausted, and afterwards to

eat it with butter. By these means such a quantity of saliva might be carried into the stomach, as would be sufficient for the purpose of digestion.

CHEESE

is likewise reprobated by many as extremely unwholesome. It is doubtless not easy of digestion; and, when eaten in a great quantity, may overload the stomach; but if taken sparingly, its tenacity may be dissolved by the digestive juices, and it may yield a wholesome, though not very nourishing chyle. Toasted cheese is agreeable to most palates, but is rendered more indigestible by that process.

FOWLS.

The flesh of birds differs in quality according to the food on which they live. Such as feed upon grain and berries, afford, in general, good nourishment; if we except geese and ducks, which are hard of digestion, especially the former. A young hen or chicken is tender and delicate food, and extremely well adapted where the digestive powers are weak. But of all tame fowls, the capon is the most nutritious.

TURKEYS, &c.

Turkeys, as well as Guinea or India fowls, afford a substantial nutriment, but are not so easy of digestion as the common domestic fowls. In all birds those parts are the most firm, which are most exercised: in the small birds, therefore, the wings, and in the larger kinds the legs, are commonly the most difficult of digestion.

WILD FOWLS.

The flesh of wild birds, in general, though more easily digested, is less nourishing than that of quadrupeds, as being more dry, on account of their almost constant exercise. Those birds are not wholesome which subsist upon worms, insects, and fishes.

EGGS.

The eggs of birds are a simple and wholesome aliment. Those of the turkey are superior in all the qualifications of food. The white of eggs is dissolved in a warm temperature, but by much heat it is rendered tough and hard. The yolk contains much oil, and is highly nourishing, but has a strong tendency to putrefaction; on which account, eggs are improper for people of weak stomachs, especially when they are not quite fresh. Eggs boiled hard or fried are difficult of digestion, and are rendered still more indigestible by the addition of butter. All eggs require a sufficient quantity of salt, to promote their solution in the stomach.

FISH,

though some of them be light and easy of digestion, afford less nourishment than vegetables, or the flesh of quadrupeds, and are, of all the animal tribes, the most disposed to putrefaction.—Salt water fish are, in general, the best; but when salted, though less disposed to putrescency, they become more difficult of digestion.—Whittings and flounders are the most easily digested. Acid sauces and pickles, by resisting putrefaction, are a proper addition to fish, both as they retard putrescency, and correct the relaxing tendency of butter, so generally used with this kind of aliment.

OYSTERS AND COCKLES, are eaten both raw and dressed; but in the former state they are preferable; because heat dissipates considerably their nutritious parts as well as the salt water, which promotes their digestion in the stomach: if not eaten very sparingly, they generally prove laxative.

MUSSELS AND PERIWINKLES, are far inferior to oysters, both in point of digestion and nutriment. Sea mussels are by some supposed to be of a poisonous nature; but though this opinion is not much countenanced by experience, the safest way is to eat them with vinegar, or some other vegetable acid.

(To be continued.)

RESURRECTION MEN.

On Saturday se'nnight, a young lad, belonging to Carronshore, named William Millar, a slater, having gone into Edinburgh to visit a brother, who lives at Fountain Bridge, was sitting by the fire with his brother, ere he went to bed, when, having occasion to go to the door, he went out to his brother's garden. The moon shone brightly, and it was about one o'clock on Sunday morning. Soon after going into the garden, he was alarmed by the noise of fighting, and cries for help, upon the high road. He immediately ran forward to ascertain the cause, when a man, dressed like a coach driver, came up to him, and urged him to assist in separating the pretended combatants. No sooner, however, had he got to the spot, than one of them struck him over the mouth with his hand, fastening at the same time a large adhesive plaster over his mouth and nose, but owing to his giving a sudden turn of the head, one nostril and a very small part of his mouth, were left uncovered. At the instant this was effected, the other fellow caught him by the arms, which they pinioned back with a rope like a culprit for the gallows. In this state he was hurried to a chaise, which stood near the place, into which he was raised, and a box, about three feet long, and two feet high, that stood in the bottom of it, being opened, he was put into it upon his back and the lid crushed down upon him and locked. The terror and stupor in which he was, destroyed all presence of mind, while the plaster prevented his making any noise.—The chaise immediately set off, and for several hours he lay in this dreadful confinement, when the box was opened and his mysterious companions lifted him out and placed him between them upon the seat. The small glimmer which the pane in the back of the chaise afforded, (for the blinds were up) enabled him indistinctly to observe the appearance of the men; they were dressed in large white dreadnought great coats, close about their faces; one of them, whom Millar thinks he could recognize, seemed an oldish man. The most profound silence was observed, and after being allowed thus to enjoy a little air, he was again replaced in the box. This was done three times, evidently to keep him alive, but he now became much exhausted, and his arms and legs benumbed from the rope and pressure. The chaise stopped once, apparently at Dunbar, long enough for the horses to be changed. The journey was continued till the Sunday afternoon, when, at Aytown, the chaise broke down by the wheel breaking, and a spring giving way, and as it was impossible to get it re-

paired that night, and the men seeing they could not get on, they loosed their horses and drove into Berwick, the driver behind one of them.—Numbers of country people were returning from the church, who were attracted by a disagreeable smell issuing from a box tied behind the chaise. This they were not long of breaking up, when it was found to contain the dead body of a man! Proceeding in their investigation, the box within the chaise was next opened, when their astonishment can hardly be imagined at seeing actually a living person in such a situation. He was quickly taken from his wretched confinement, and removed to a public house, where he experienced humane treatment from the sympathy of his deliverers. Next day he was taken upon a cart into Berwick, and with a number of the eye witnesses, made a deposition before a magistrate. Here he learned the horses had been left at an inn in Berwick, and as a suspicion was entertained that the crew were lurking about the town, he was told no notice would appear in the public papers till a search was made for their apprehension. A few shillings being collected for him, and having happened to have a trifle at the time concealed below his vest, he was enabled to return by the coach to Edinburgh, where his brother's family did not exceed in astonishment at his return, the satisfaction he felt at his miraculous escape. A guinea note was rifled from his watch pocket during the scuffle in putting him into the chaise. The writer of this relation has seen him and the plaster which he brought home. It is a piece of white leather covered with a strongly adhesive black substance. Millar has a good character, and is a serious, quiet lad. He seems to have suffered considerably from his awful adventure, and says he is disturbed during the night by fearful dreams that he is still in the clutches of the resurrection men, and bound within the horrid box!—*Lond. pa.*

PECULIAR EXPRESSIONS OF THE HUMAN FACE.

The Creator has placed man at the head of the animal creation; there is wonderfully united in his character all the possible advantages of wisdom, of strength and of beauty. He is monarch of the lower world, and wields the sceptre of lordly intelligence over all the inferior productions of the prolific earth. His body erect, and his face directed towards the ethereal regions, commands the respect of his associates, and displays the dignity of his nature. He is not only endowed with the surprising faculty of reasoning, but with the will and the power of converting all the curious instinctive contrivances of other animals, to his own wants as well as luxury. As he carries the appearance of conscious superiority over all other animated beings, in the external form and arrangement of his limbs, the face, which is a living index of the passions engendered within the breast, eminently distinguishes him from every other species of animal. It has as many expressions as there are feelings in the human heart, and such is the relation between the emotions of the mind and the tissues of the face, through the medium of the sanguiferous and nervous systems, that each feeling is perfectly exhibited, either in the movements of the face, or in the motions of the body which we define corporeal expression. It is computed that there are now living, on the different parts of the globe, more than eight hundred millions of persons, and among this vast and astonishing number, perhaps there are no two that strictly

resemble each other. As conscience is a faithful watchman over the actions of the soul, and never slumbers on a dangerous post, so expression, in the features, makes report of what is passing within the breast. Nature, as though fearful of man's degeneracy, has stamped his face with her own seal, to constitute him a herald of his own shame, or his own honour—that he may reveal with his face the wickedness his heart is striving to conceal, or that he may express the generous sympathies of his bosom, when the tongue refuses to articulate the tender emotions of love, or to proclaim the noble feelings of a generous and exalted mind.

As no two can possibly be found that exactly resemble each other, it is altogether probable that the countless millions who have returned to their mother earth, have individually had an arrangement of features and a peculiarity of facial expression, which will never again be exhibited in any succeeding generation.—In the annals of human greatness, it has been customary with the critical observers of the *minima naturæ*, to point out those conspicuous traits in the features, that carry a convincing testimony of a superior genius, of him that cultivates the higher pursuits of literature, and the bold warrior, as well as the savage barbarian and intrepid wretch who glories in the devastation of innocent lives, and views with delight the crimsoned streams of vital blood, that deluge fields of conquest to gratify the insatiable ambition of a sovereign autocrat. The fruits of such observations ultimately became, in Europe, an important branch of a polite education, and the ingenuity of Lavater reduced them to a system. This was called physiognomy, or the art of determining the disposition by an outward examination of the face. This cannot be called a science, but a speculative art, and there is no doubt that a long course of observation endows the attentive eye with the faculty of discriminating the amiable character of him who can drop a tear of sympathy for the unhappy, from the cowardly spirit of him who lurks from the pleasures of domestic comfort, like the prowling wolf at midnight stillness, seeking a victim for slaughter.

The study of character and expression as is exhibited in the body and limbs, is more difficult than of such traits of the passions as are conspicuous in the face. The sublime effects produced in marble, by the expression of form and attitude, alone, strongly prove the influence of corporeal expression. Corporeal expression, as exhibited in the muscles of locomotion, has a wide range, from the graceful inclination of the head and neck of the Apollo, to the convulsive struggle of the Laocoon. This being the operation of the mind on the body, to bestow grace and propriety of action on the figure, presupposes a deep knowledge with the passions; while the difficulty of execution, however justly the idea may be conceived, makes this the highest department in the art of painting.

It is the emanation of the mind, inspiring the features, that gives grace to action and enchantment to beauty. If there be such a thing as pleasure arising from mere form, without expression of character, it must necessarily be exceedingly transient. One gazes with rapture upon the beautiful proportions of an interesting female; but the enchanting form is no sooner gone from the sight, than it is entirely forgotten. If, however, the man once becomes acquainted with those peculiar witcheries of her soul, that give expression to a delicate system, then he dwells upon the vision with enthusiastic delight. In every possible condition and state of existence, there is a certain character to be given to the body. It is alive or dead, still or in motion;

it has the spirit and buoyant spring of youth, the massiveness of manly strength, the grace and elegance of female beauty, or the cautious timidity and constrained motions and postures of old age, legibly impressed on the whole figure, and prescribing every motion and position. In the posture of the body and limbs, in the inclination of the head and neck, the depression or elevation of the mind is indicated. Elevation of thought is portrayed in dignity of demeanour, or in mildness of manners; pride, insolence, suspicion and fear, have also their bodily expressions; and these ideas of mind enter unconsciously into all our conceptions of the beauty of form, as well as of the propriety and correctness of action.

Beauty is consistent with an infinite variety of forms: and this alone is sufficient to convince us that its cause and origin are to be found in some quality capable of varying and accommodating itself to different forms.—This quality is expression; and although it may be said that beauty is chiefly excellent when there is observed no character of passion, yet in these cases, the form we admire is calculated for expression, and has in our secret thoughts a relation to the qualities of the mind. The lover sees in the features on which he doats, a tenderness of sentiment; he imagines delicate attractions, engaging endearments, and all the blandishments and lovely qualities of mind which the fondest fancy can conceive. When, however, he discovers that his dreams are but fancy's sketch, that all the qualities which he has attributed to the object of his admiration, are not possessed by her, and that she has not the susceptibility of mind which he had imagined to be reflected in the face and indicated in the movements of the body, admiration and love rapidly subside; if he is still forced to acknowledge the beauty of the features, they affect him as the beauty of a statue—with an ardent, it is true, but an unvarying, and, after a while, a tiresome emotion. In the *child*, the bloom and freshness, the smooth and rounded form, and even limited power of expression, accord in our conception with the ingenious simplicity of its mind. With the very idea of a *woman*, we associate a form of gentleness, and elegant simplicity of manners. The beauty we admire is the capacity for that expression; and the view of expression itself, conveys to the mind the idea of the more amiable and feminine sentiments.

(To be continued.)

ADHESIONS OF THE ABDOMINAL AND THORACIC VISCERA.

We have recently been favoured with a view of the abdominal viscera of a person who died in middle life, where the inflammatory process had been so very great, at some former period, as to form a complete adhesion of the left lobe of the liver to the stomach; and such was the confusion of parts, that the arch of the colon, the jejunum, kidneys, &c. were perfectly united into one confused mass, overspread by the omenta, equally diseased, and conglutinated with the organs which they surrounded. The right lobe of the liver was amazingly enlarged, of a lighter colour than is natural, of a spongy texture, and covered by a new membrane of coagulable lymph. Perhaps there are few instances of such general disease, where the powers of life have been sustained so long a time, with less inconvenience to the patient.

The foregoing case has led us to make some general remarks on adhesions of the viscera, rather with the idea of explaining the manner in which their functions are performed, when they have suffered from violent

and extensive inflammation, than of proposing a class of remedies for their relief.

Where the pleura pulmonalis becomes united to the pleura costalis, through the intervention of coagulable lymph, which is invariably poured out by the exhalents in proportion to the violence of the disease, the difficulty of breathing partially subsides with the decrease of the inflammatory diathesis—yet the individual is never entirely free from local pains and occasional spasms, till the points of adhesion become elongated, and the lung of the affected side is again perfectly inflated. We have repeatedly noticed in our dissections, this kind of elongation, and by such facts, it is easy to account for recoveries in the respiratory organs, when the patient has laboured under the most severe and tedious chronic inflammation for a considerable period, and then again wholly recovered.

It seems that adhesions of the intestines, however firm, are but of little consequence to the future health of the patient, if there is no displacement of the parts. Thus, if the right side of the liver and gall bladder are strongly united to the pyloric portion of the stomach, duodenum, and right ascending portion of the colon, there are no results from it that endanger life, or, in the majority of cases, that disturb the abdominal functions. Where the fundus of a distended bladder becomes united to the small intestines, there is more danger to be anticipated, because the moment the urine is drawn off, the whole of the viscera above will be displaced, by being drawn into the pelvis below.

We copy from the Trenton Emporium the following remarks, which, though not on a medical subject, yet, from their title, cannot but suggest an idea which may be usefully examined by both physicians and patients. It frequent happens that a person in full strength imagines he has some trifling complaint, and in order to remove it doses himself day after day with powerful medicines, till the system loses its tone, and the flush of health fades upon his cheek. Resort to professional assistance becomes now indispensable; medicines which were injurious before, are now required to obviate a morbid debility, and the unfortunate hypochondriac is confined weeks to his chamber, and comes out of it at last with a pale and haggard countenance, and a constitution enfeebled and perhaps permanently deranged. The frequency of such cases must be noticed by every one who casts his eye back on the private history of his friends and acquaintance; and let it teach us never to swallow medicines unless they are pronounced necessary by some able practitioner, to reflect on the *vis medicatrix naturæ*, and, when to all intents and purposes we are well, to let both well and medicines alone.

"LET WELL ALONE."

"I was well—I wanted to be better, and here I am."

ITALIAN EPITAPH.

A disposition to be satisfied with any attainment or possession, is not among the distinguishing characteristics of humanity. Comparatively few of us, like the pupil of Gamaliel, can say that we have determined "in whatsoever situation we are, therewith to be content;" and this is the more to be lamented, as, in numberless instances, it leads us into the most grievous errors; into dangerous experiments, which put at hazard our fortunes; into enterprizes on the success of which is suspended our happiness, perhaps our character. There is no limit within which the active and aspiring mind will pause in its

pursuit of happiness, though every step be beset with danger, and a single error may prove ruinous. We are apt to venture on and on in pursuit of something yet unobtained, until having left behind us many a pleasant and peaceful spot on the sunny side of the hill of life—we pass the summit and descend into the shade.

I see from my window the ruins of a large and costly mill, which a neighbour of mine erected some years ago. He was a thriving farmer, and put money out at interest every year; lived easily, affluently, and, I believe happily; but he got it into his head that the stream which meandered through his meadows afforded a mill seat; he must build; he borrowed money, and finished the work with great cost and infinite pains; but the water failed, hard times came on, the value of land depreciated. He was well off in the world; he wanted to be better off; and he is now a labourer for his daily bread. Another with great care and labour, had gathered money to buy a fine plantation; he was a good farmer, a good economist, had an industrious, frugal family, and, one would have supposed, would have set himself contentedly down, to enjoy the fruits of his toil. Not so—he fancied the western country held out great prospects of making a fortune. He travelled with a speculator, and got a deed for a tract nearly ten times as large as that he lived on, and removed to Ohio. The title, however, proved bad, and on his return, the rogue he traded with, had sold out and gone off. The man's all was lost. He is poor to this day.

Instances of this general kind, are by no means unfrequent in the world, and will never be less frequent while the desire to do *better than well*, is common and prevalent. Nor is this mischief confined exclusively to the money making part of the community, or those whose main pursuit in life is the accumulation of wealth. It is very possible for men to mistake in matters of ambition. The desire to be *great* has ruined the *respectability* of some. All the qualities that constitute fine talents are sometimes to be seen embarked in a crusade against happiness; and men whose lives might be useful, prosperous and happy, withdraw from the peace and retirement of the vale, to occupy those loftier places which court the contentious storms that beat incessantly around the most elevated spheres. There was something certainly of truth, in that saying attributed to Roger Ascham, "men grow tired of contentedness."

The first step of a wise man is to graduate all his desires and labours, with a reference to another state of being—not to set too high a value on things in this world, and to be contented with the measure of prosperity allowed him. But while he should cherish none of those inordinate desires which arise from a mistaken view of life, he should not, on the other hand, settle down, at any time, in a sluggish, indifferent state. If our great object in the accumulation of wealth, and the acquirement of power, was to benefit our fellow beings, simply, we should not very often be found hazarding the loss of our present means of usefulness to gain greater. The truth is, the love of power and distinction, of honour and wealth, has too generally, nothing of disinterestedness in it.

The plain and simple maxim I have quoted at the beginning, ought often to be recurred to.—If your farm affords you a good living, take care

how you speculate in a way that will put it in danger—and consider long and thoroughly before you abandon it to try your fortune in another occupation, or a new country. If you are a mechanic in tolerable business, and by industry can get along well, be sure you have an opportunity of doing better before you leave off trade—I say be absolutely sure of it. Apply the rule, “*Let well alone*,” to every purpose before you proceed to action, and see whether your plan consists with prudence.

INTELLIGENCE.

RARITIES FROM CHINA, MALACCA, AND THE INDIAN OCEAN.—By the Huntress, Capt. Mallaby, from Canton, and by D. Ellingwood, Esq. (says a New York paper,) several interesting articles have reached the Mitchillian Museum, through the public spirit and generosity of Charles Henry Hall, Esq.:—1. Two Sea Serpents from a distance of two hundred miles from the land of Sandal Wood Island; one beautifully variegated with sable and gold, (being the *Anguis platyrus* of naturalists,) and having a flat perpendicular tail; the other, apparently of the Adder or Colubar family, of a whitish and brownish complexion, with a shielded belly and sharp tail. 2. Several species of fish, the names and characters of which are not decided on; among them a very singular *Syngrathus*, or Pipe-fish. 3. A cast, done from the life, of AKEE, the double-man of China. This *lusus nature* is now about twenty years old, and in the enjoyment of pretty good health. From the lower part of the breast-bone, or pit of the stomach, another human being is appended by the neck, and hangs dangling down. The upper extremities, the trunk, and the lower extremities, are all there—though somewhat distorted—and alive, the head alone being wanting.—This two-fold being has been seen in Canton by a number of our citizens, and is now travelling about China, gaining a subsistence by exhibiting himself to beholders. He may be considered the most curious animated phenomenon of the age. The image, done in plaster, is well executed, and accompanied by a drawing from Mr Ellingwood.

SUICIDES IN PARIS.—Among the statistical researches regarding the city of Paris, recently published by order of M. de Chabrol, the following suicides will afford a fair opportunity of comparing it with those of England. According to the estimate of the deaths during the years of 1819 and 1821, in which the distinction of age and sex was established, it was remarked that mortality amongst males up to the age of 25 years, is greater than amongst females, and that from this age up to 50, there die more women than men. It is reckoned that more women than men arrive at advanced age. In the year 1821, 348 suicides were effected or attempted: in 244 of these cases death ensued: of this number 236 were men. The presumed motives were:—

Amorous passions	35
Alienation of mind, domestic troubles and painful afflictions	126
Debauchery, gambling, and lottery	43
Indigence, loss of place, and derangement of affairs	46
Fear of reproach and punishment	10
Unknown motives	88

33 had been effected by severe voluntary falls; 33 by strangulation; 25 by cutting instruments;

60 by fire arms; 23 by poison; 42 asphyxies by charcoal vapour; and 127 by drowning. It is seen by this scale how large a portion of the whole number is ascribed to affliction and alienation of mind. It is also no less remarkable, that among the means by which this crime had been effected, drowning has been adopted by nearly three times as many as any of the others.

FANATACISM.—An extraordinary act of fanaticism, (says a London paper,) lately took place at the Hotel Carnarvon. A servant who was there, borrowed an axe from one of the servants of the house. He took it into his bed-room, very composedly placed his left hand upon the foot of the bed, and with the axe in his right hand chopped it clearly off! Having thrown the hand under the bed, he came down holding the stump bleeding profusely, which must have caused his death in a short time, had not the waiter made use of a handkerchief by way of tourniquet, and by that means partially stopped the blood, until surgical aid was procured.—On the arrival of the surgeon, the poor servant was so much exhausted, that further amputation could not then be performed, but it has since been done, and he seems likely to survive. This horrifying act of self-mutilation was effected for the avowed purpose of being better enabled to enter into the “kingdom of heaven!” Every possible care has been taken of him, and a person continually watches him. He has since been dull and silent, and it is much to be feared that the delusion has by no means left him, and that some other member of his body, or indeed his life, may be the next sacrifice to his most unnatural mania.

RESTORATION AFTER HANGING.—Mr Glover, Surgeon, in Doctors’ Commons, London, relates the case of a person who was restored to life, after twenty-nine minutes hanging, and continued in good health for many years after. The principal means used to restore this man to life, were opening the temporal artery and external jugular, rubbing the back, mouth, and neck, with a quantity of volatile spirits and oil, administering the tobacco clyster by means of lighted pipes, and strong frictions of the legs and arms. This course had been continued for about four hours, when an incision was made in his windpipe, and air blown strongly through a canula into his lungs. About twenty minutes after this, the blood at the artery began to run down the face, and a slow pulse was just perceptible at the wrist. The frictions were continued for some time longer, his pulse became more frequent, and his mouth and nose being irritated with spirit of sal ammoniac, he opened his eyes. Warm cordials were then administered to him, and in two days he was so well as to be able to walk eight miles.

ABSORPTION OF PUS.—A medical student of this city nearly lost his life, a few weeks since, by the absorption of poison from a subject on which he was dissecting, simply from a scratch on one finger. The astonishing inflammation and pain of the whole arm, nearly defeated the skill of some of the most experienced practitioners; but the symptoms gradually abated, after the most persevering efforts, and the amputation of the finger, close to the palm of the hand, will be a lasting memento of his narrow escape. We strongly recommend the immediate application of oilum terebinthina to such wounds, the moment they are made, as years of constant experience has fully demonstrated its utility in preventing gangrene and other concomitant affections, resulting from an absorption of putrid animal matter.

CURE FOR BLISTERED FEET.—Simply rub the feet, at going to bed, with spirits mixed with tallow dropped from a lighted candle into the palm of the hand. On the following morning no blisters will exist; the spirit seems to possess the healing power, the tallow serving only to keep the skin soft and pliant. The soles of the feet, the ankles, and insteps, should be rubbed well; and even where no blisters exist, the application may be usefully made as a preventive. Salt and water is a good substitute; and, while on this head, (says Capt. Cochrane in his Travels in Russia,) I would recommend foot travellers never to wear right and left shoes. It is bad economy, and indeed serves to cramp the feet.

REMARKABLE PRESERVATION OF A DEAD BODY.—A short time since, in working to establish a communication between two shafts of a mine at Fabkin, the capital of Dalcarnia, the body of a miner was discovered in a state of perfect preservation, and impregnated with vitriolic water. It was quite soft, but hardened on being exposed to the air. No one could identify the body; it was merely remembered that the accident by which he had been buried in the bosom of the earth, had taken place about fifty years ago. All inquiries about the name of the sufferer had already ceased, when a decrepid old woman, supported on crutches, slowly advanced towards the corpse, and knew it to be a young man to whom she had been promised in marriage more than half a century ago. She threw herself on the corpse, which had all the appearance of a brazen statue, bathed it with tears, and fainted with joy, at having once more beheld the object of her affections. It is easier to conceive than describe the singular contrast afforded by that couple; the one buried fifty years ago, still retaining the appearance of youth; while the other, weighed down by age, evinced all the fervor of youthful love.

PHYSICIAN FOR SHIPS.—The second edition of this book is now published, and offered for sale at the book-stores, price dol. 1.25. It contains medical advice for persons at sea, and in sickly climates; on the cure, and on the prevention of disease.

DR TULLY, who was elected Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, and subsequently, President of the Castleton Med. Academy, has *resigned* his chair.

✎ An apology is due for the omission of an article (which we are sorry to say ought to have been inserted) in the bill of mortality, published in our last; and which we regret the more, as our much respected friend the Superintendent, had taken so much pains to have it correct. To the list of diseases, &c. on the first page, our readers will please to add the following—*Intemperance*, 23.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

Ending January 15; from the Health-Office Returns:

January 8th.—Jane W. Atwood, 17; Samuel Babcock; — Hamilton; Eliza Simon, 40; Eliza Weld Andrews, 13; Lucy Williams; Elizabeth P. Wheeler, 37. 10th.—John Emerson, 3; Edward Jenkins, 84; Nancy Territ, 33. 11th.—William Hickling, 57; Cecelia Tyler, 12 mo; William Wade, 38; Ann Johnson, 77; George Worcester, 9 mo. 12th.—Charlotte Atwood, 37; Lucinda Anderson; — Brett; Samuel Hastings, 87; John Sullaway, jun. 13 mo. 13th.—Child of Thomas Haynes, 2 days; Rebecca Williams, 35; Abigail Hooper, 60; John Cheverus Deblois, 12 mo; Ann Loring, 8. 15th.—Jonathan Brooks.

Consumption, 3—Stillborn, 2—Inflammation of the Throat, 1—Rheumatic Fever, 1—Typhus Fever, 1—Lung Fever, 2—Old Age, 2—Insanity, 1—Fits, 2—Palsy, 1—Dropsy in the Head, 1—Childbed, 1—Internal Cancer, 1—Teething, 1.

DIED—In Woodstown, Dr Daniel Bowen.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER:

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OBSERVATIONS.

QUALITIES OF THE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE FOOD COMMONLY USED IN DIET.

(Concluded from page 146.)

BREAD.

At the head of the vegetable class stands bread, that article of diet which, from geeneral use, has received the name of the *staff of life*. Wheat is the grain chiefly used for the purpose, and is among the most nutritive of all the farinaceous kinds, as it contains a great deal of starch. Bread is very properly eaten with animal food, to correct the disposition to putrescency; but is most expedient with such articles of diet as contain much nourishment in a small bulk, because it then serves to give the stomach a proper degree of expansion. But as it produces a slimy chyle, and disposes to costiveness, it ought not to be eaten in a large quantity. To render bread easy of digestion, it ought to be well fermented and baked; and it never should be used, till it has stood twenty-four hours after being taken out of the oven, otherwise it is apt to occasion various complaints in those who have weak stomachs; such as flatulence, heart-burn, watchfulness, and the like.—The custom of eating butter with bread, *hot from the oven*, is compatible only with very strong digestive powers.

PASTRY,

especially when hot, has all the disadvantages of hot bread and butter, and even buttered toast, though the bread be stale, is scarcely inferior in its effects on a weak stomach. Dry toast, with butter, is by far the wholesomest breakfast.—Brown wheaten bread, in which there is a good deal of rye, though not so nourishing as that made of fine flour, is both palatable and wholesome, but apt to become sour on weak stomachs.

OATS, BARLEY, AND RICE.

Oats, when deprived of the husk, and particularly barley, when properly prepared, are each of them softening, and afford wholesome and cooling nourishment. Rice likewise contains a nutritious mucilage, and is less used than it deserves, both on account of its wholesomeness and economical utility. The notion of its being hurtful to the sight is a vulgar error. In some constitutions it tends to induce costiveness; but this seems to be owing chiefly to flatulence, and may be corrected by the addition of some spice, such as caraways, anise seed, and the like.

POTATOES

are an agreeable and wholesome food, and yield nearly as much nourishment as any of the roots used in diet. The farinaceous or mealy kind is in general the most easy of digestion; and they are much improved by being toasted or baked. They ought almost always to be eaten with meat, and never without salt. The salt should be boiled with them.

GREEN PEAS AND BEANS,

boiled in their fresh state, are both agreeable to the taste and wholesome; being neither so flatulent, nor so difficult of digestion, as in their ripe

state; in which they resemble the other leguminous vegetables. French beans possess much the same qualities; but yield a more watery juice, and have a greater disposition to produce flatulence. They should be eaten with some spice.

SALADS,

being eaten raw, require good digestive powers, especially those of the cooling kind; and the addition of oil and vinegar, though qualified with mustard, hardly renders the free use of them consistent with a weak stomach.

SPINACH

affords a soft lubricating aliment, but contains little nourishment. In weak stomachs it is apt to produce acidity, and frequently a looseness.—To obviate these effects, it ought always to be well beaten, and but little butter mixed with it.

ASPARAGUS

is a nourishing article in diet, and promotes the secretion of urine; but, in common with the vegetable class, disposes a little to flatulence.

ARTICHOKES

resemble asparagus in their qualities, but seem to be more nutritive, and less diuretic.

CABBAGES

are some of the most conspicuous plants in the garden. They do not afford much nourishment, but are an agreeable addition to animal food, and not quite so flatulent as the common greens.—They are likewise diuretic, and somewhat laxative. Cabbage has a stronger tendency to putrefaction than most other vegetable substances; and, during its putrefying state, sends forth an offensive smell, much resembling that of putrefying animal bodies. So far, however, from promoting a putrid disposition in the human body, it is, on the contrary, a wholesome aliment in the true putrid scurvy.

TURNIPS

are a nutritious article of vegetable food, but not very easy of digestion, and are flatulent. This effect is in a good measure obviated, by pressing the water out of them before they are eaten.

CARROTS

contain a considerable quantity of nutritious juice, but are among the most flatulent of vegetable productions.

PARSNIPS

are more nourishing, and less flatulent than carrots, which they also exceed in the sweetness of their mucilage. By boiling them in two different waters, they are rendered less flatulent, but their other qualities are thereby diminished in proportion.

PARSLEY

is of a stimulating and aromatic nature, well calculated to make agreeable sauces. It is also a gentle diuretic; but preferable in all its qualities, when boiled.

CELERY

affords a root both wholesome and fragrant, but is difficult of digestion in its raw state. It gives an agreeable taste to soups, as well as renders them diuretic.

ONIONS, GARLIC, AND SHALLOT,

are all of a stimulating nature, by which they assist digestion, dissolve slimy humours, and expel

flatulency. They are, however, most suitable to persons of a cold and phlegmatic constitution.

RADISHES

of all kinds, particularly the horse radish, agree with the three preceding articles in powerfully dissolving slimy humours. They excite the discharge of air lodged in the stomach.

APPLES

are a wholesome vegetable aliment, and in many cases medicinal, particularly in diseases of the breast and complaints arising from phlegm. But, in general, they agree best with the stomach when eaten either roasted or boiled. The more aromatic kinds of apples are the fittest for eating raw.

PEARS

resemble much in their effects the sweet kind of apples, but have more of a laxative quality, and a greater tendency to flatulence.

CHERRIES

are in general a wholesome fruit, when they agree with the stomach, and they are beneficial in many diseases, especially those of the putrid kind.

PLUMS

are nourishing, and have besides an attenuating, as well as a laxative, quality, but are apt to produce flatulence. If eaten fresh, and before they are ripe, especially in large quantities, they occasion colics and other complaints of the bowels.

PEACHES

are not of a very nourishing quality, but they abound in juice, and are serviceable in bilious complaints.

APRICOTS

are more pulpy than peaches, but are apt to ferment, and produce acidities in weak stomachs. Where they do not disagree they are cooling, and tend likewise to correct a disposition to putrescency.

GOOSEBERRIES AND CURRANTS,

when ripe, are similar in their qualities to cherries, and when used in a green state they are agreeably cooling.

STRAWBERRIES

are an agreeable, cooling aliment, and are accounted good in cases of gravel.

CUCUMBERS

are cooling, and agreeable to the palate in hot weather; but to prevent them from proving hurtful to the stomach, the juice ought to be squeezed out after they are sliced, and vinegar, pepper, and salt, afterwards added.

TEA.

By some, the use of this exotic is condemned in terms the most vehement and unqualified, while others have either asserted its innocence, or gone so far as to ascribe to it salubrious, and even extraordinary virtues. The truth seems to lie between these extremes: there is, however, an essential difference in the effects of *green tea* and of *black*, or of *bohea*; the former of which is much more apt to affect the nerves of the stomach than the latter, more especially when drunk without cream, and likewise without bread and butter. That, taken in a large quantity, or

at a later hour than usual, tea often produces watchfulness, is a point that cannot be denied; but if used in moderation, and accompanied with the addition just now mentioned, it does not sensibly discover any hurtful effects, but greatly relieves an oppression of the stomach, and abates a pain of the head. It ought always to be made of a moderate degree of strength: for if too weak it certainly relaxes the stomach. As it has an astringent taste, which seems not very consistent with a relaxing power, there is ground for ascribing this effect, not so much to the herb itself, as to the hot water, which not being impregnated with a sufficient quantity of tea, to correct its own emollient tendency, produces a relaxation, unjustly imputed to some noxious quality of the plant. But tea, like every other commodity, is liable to damage, and when this happens, it may produce effects not necessarily connected with its original qualities.

COFFEE.

It is allowed that coffee promotes digestion, and exhilarates the animal spirits; besides which, various other qualities are ascribed to it, such as dispelling flatulency, removing dizziness of the head, attenuating viscid humours, increasing the circulation of the blood, and consequently perspiration; but if drunk too strong, it affects the nerves, occasions watchfulness, and tremor of the hands; though in some phlegmatic constitutions it is apt to produce sleep. Indeed, it is to persons of that habit that coffee is well accommodated; for to people of a thin and dry habit of body it seems to be injurious. Turkey coffee is greatly preferable in flavour to that of the West Indies. Drank, only in the quantity of one dish, after dinner to promote digestion, it answers best without either sugar or milk; but if taken at other times, it should have both: or in place of the latter rather cream, which not only improves the beverage, but tends to mitigate the effect of coffee upon the nerves.

CHOCOLATE

is a nutritive and wholesome composition, if taken in small quantity, and not repeated too often; but is generally hurtful to the stomach of those with whom a vegetable diet disagrees. By the addition of vanilla and other ingredients, it is made too heating, and so much affects particular constitutions as to excite nervous symptoms, especially complaints of the head.

PREMATURE INTERMENT.

A young man fell in love with the daughter of a rich citizen of Paris, and his affection was returned. The father of the lady obliged her, however, to renounce her lover, and to marry another. A short time after her nuptials, the young wife fell ill and died. She was buried at Paris, twenty-four hours after her decease.—Her first lover, incapable of resisting the desire he felt of seeing her for the last time, succeeded in gaining the sexton, who consented to open the tomb the same night. The young man threatened the latter to kill him, if he committed the smallest indiscretion; after which he carried off the body, conveyed it to a neighbouring house, placed near the fire, rubbed it with warm cloths, and tried all possible means of restoring to life the woman he adored. After some hours, he had the happiness to discover signs of life appear; she first began to emit gentle sighs, and at last

returned entirely to herself. As soon as she was entirely re-established in health, the two lovers, thus re-united by death, set out for England, whence they did not dare to return till several years had elapsed. At first a stand was made against recognizing the young female for the pretended defunct; but her new husband found means to prove that she was really the same as had been buried, and demanded restitution of the fortune which belonged to her. The consequence was, a most extraordinary law-suit. The first husband persisted in asserting that she belonged to him, while the second affirmed she was dead as far as he was concerned, and that without his measures and exertions she would never have been restored to life. The Parliament, however, appeared to lean towards the title of the first husband; and this circumstance urged them to return to England, without awaiting the decision of the law-suit. The particulars of this remarkable process are yet to be found in the journals of the Parliament.

After having reported a great number of similar examples, of other persons buried alive, Dr Hufelan, a celebrated professor at Berlin, remarks that—"These examples ought to render us more circumspect, and induce us no longer to abandon bodies on the representation of the nurses, who very often pay no attention to a corpse after they believe it to be one. I remember one of these women once assuring me, some time after interment of a man she had attended, that some of his family would shortly follow, because the defunct opened one eye in the coffin, which according to her, was a certain sign of the death of another relative! After such a declaration, can it be doubted that innumerable victims have been prematurely buried, who might have otherwise enjoyed a long existence?"

PECULIAR EXPRESSIONS OF THE HUMAN FACE.

(Continued from page 147.)

With regard to the expression of the *facial angle*, a subject equally curious and rare, we must confine ourselves to the statement of a few facts. If it be under fifty, the animal cannot laugh. One hundred degrees is the measurement of the Grecian head, eighty is the average in Europeans, seventy-eight in the Negro, fifty eight in the Ourang Outang, forty-two in the Monkey, and twenty-three in the Horse. Apes more nearly resemble men in their habits, and their occasionally erect posture, than those animals which give an angle far greater. It is totally impossible for them to express joy or satisfaction by laughing, because the zygomatic muscles, which are powerful agents in this kind of expression, are wanting, as we observe in every case where the animal's greatest strength is in the mouth. When his master, with a whip suspended over the animal's head, bids him laugh, although he grins, and exerts himself to imitate with his features the face of laughter, still, in the society of other monkeys, he never exhibits any expression of delight in the muscles of the face, but rather, like brutes in general, shows a corporeal expression by the motion of his body and limbs. One person will sometimes endeavour to show us how another looks, by assuming some forced expression, as a full eye, rolling lip, glaring countenance, &c., which does not bear the least resemblance to the face he is describing, but he is all the while conceiving that his borrowed expression exactly corresponds with the picture in the sensorium—and does not recollect that the

other has not the advantage of such a picture. In the same manner the ape imitates the act of laughing, in a way which cannot convey the idea of joy except to us who express it in that manner.

To brutify a human face, we have only to diminish the forehead, bring the eyes nearer together, or set them farther apart, lengthen the jaw, and depress the mouth. If this be done, no expression of individual features will give elevation to the character. A wideness or squareness of the lower part of the face, is not inconsistent with a vulgar head, and a certain representation of strength and manliness; but if the eyes be diminished, and the space between them contracted, the expanse of the human countenance is lost, and no dignity of expression can remain. The largeness of the orbit, with a full eye, is not only a great beauty in itself, as a feature of expression, but it necessarily takes off from the prominence of the cheek bone, and gives the oval cast to the face. The prominence of the cheek bones, which we regard as a deformity, produces a disagreeable effect, not so much from a jutting out of the bones, as from its being accompanied in general by a nearness and smallness of the eyes.

The eye, as a single organ, far excels in beauty and structure, every other, and holds a rank within the facial outlines that cannot be surpassed. The lively carnation of the skin, accompanied with a moist brilliancy of the eye, when the mind is under the influence of a pleasurable sensation, forms the most angelic of all human expressions. When the eye-brows are gently arched, and the eye has that agreeable fulness that is more easily conceived than expressed, it is capable of conveying a language which none can speak, yet every human being understands. This gem of expression, this intellectual telescope, is the perfection of beauty, and to imitate it is the study of every painter and sculptor of every age. All our intercourse, all our happiness, and all the refined sensibilities of the soul, are wholly referable to this simple, secret, wonder-working organ. It is the kindest gift of the Creator, and when destroyed, deplored the longest and the most. The expression of the eye shows the true feeling of the heart, under all the circumstances of life. "How admirable," says the Abbe Marotte, "is that organ, by which we can perceive the temper, the passions, the dispositions and affections of our fellow-creatures, even when the tongue is taught most artfully to lie!"—the eye, that microcosm—that world in miniature, invariably exposes hypocrisy, and tells the truth in loud and clear terms. The almost indescribable expression of the eye is most successfully pictured by Shakspeare, the most accomplished master of human nature the world has ever produced. He makes Othello watch the anxious features of youthful Desdemona, till the moment when she forgot herself intent upon the story of the artful Moor—and then he says, "which I observing, took once a pliant hour"—

"My story being done
She gave me for my pains a world of sighs—
She swore, 'In faith 'twas strange, 'twas passing strange,
'Twas pitiful, 'twas wondrous pitiful'—
She lov'd me for the dangers I had pass'd,
And I lov'd her, that she did pity them."

(To be continued.)

MEDICAL LITERATURE OF NEW-YORK.

The inhabitants of New-York are justly celebrated for being enterprising in every thing; and so long as the state can boast of such men as have already contributed to its aggrandizement, she must possess a controlling influence over the mercantile and political power of her

neighbours. Its local advantages are obvious, both in the capital and the country, and these facilities applied with a liberality and an ambition unknown to any people but Americans, will eventually make this fair portion of the union, the strongest arm of the general government. Notwithstanding this ambition which is so conspicuous in every other undertaking, the sciences seem not to flourish in N. York, and we believe the number of distinguished Physicians and Surgeons, considering the extent of territory, is less than in any one of the northern states. Every one must acknowledge the learning and talents of Drs. Hosack, Post, Mott, Mitchell, &c. whose reputation is but a merited reward for their industry and public usefulness; but when this short catalogue is done, there are few other names which at present give much importance and character to the medical literature of the state. Among those who are making efforts to give dignity to the professional character of New-York, we should not forget Dr T. Romeyn Beck, the author of a recent work on Medical Jurisprudence, which has given him a standing among our first writers. Dr Beck is favourably situated for cultivating the highest medical pursuits, and his age is such that we may anticipate another publication, within a few years, if we are correctly informed, which will materially advance the medical literature of our country.

The Medical School of the city of New-York, next in age to that of Philadelphia, although so ably, and we may say so justly represented by professors in the several departments, whose names are enrolled in the learned societies of almost every part of continental Europe, has either lost some of its influence abroad, or the growth of other institutions has been such as to prevent an increase either of students or reputation. The number of medical scholars, the present season, is considerably less than in many preceding years, although the course of instruction is admitted to be equally judicious, and by no means inferior to that which has been heretofore pursued: it is scarcely possible, however, for any institution always to be increasing, nor is it an argument against any particular mode of instruction, that it has an occasional ebb as well as flow of prosperity.

The Fairfield School must always have a circumscribed influence, whilst it is kept in the most inauspicious section of the State. It has but few local advantages, and we sincerely regret that the Legislature had not established it in some one of those flourishing western towns, where science, although less known, might be easily cultivated, and made to subserve the good of society much more than it ever can in a place like Fairfield, completely shut up and shut out as it is, from all the physical advantages of the state. The professors of this school are eminently qualified to give character to medical science, and hence we feel the greater desire to have their public buildings still to the westward of their present location, where more students would be found, and useful knowledge would be more extensively diffused than is possible whilst they remain in their present situation.

The State Medical Society is governed like those of the adjacent states, and has for its object the same laudable purpose of rendering the profession respectable both at home and abroad. The premiums which have been offered by this Society, the last season, for dissertations on particular subjects of medicine, show not only a spirit of liberality, but a determination to bring into requisition the talents and genius of the faculty. The County Societies, which are so many branches of the primitive one, are wisely regulated, and

have invariably watched, with a careful eye, every movement within their precincts which would have a tendency to injure the reputation of the medical profession. Publications, and particularly periodical works on medicine, have been numerous in New-York, and many of them are highly reputable and useful.

We cannot dismiss this subject without a reference to the bare-faced *charlatanism* and systematic quackery which is tolerated in various parts of New-York.—Even the *Thompsonites*, the very lowest of *Æsculapian* pretenders, are permitted, and that too without apparent molestation, to deal out ad libitum their *cayenne* and *tinctured lobelia*. It is truly difficult to sweep the earth at once of that class of beings who sport with the lives of their fellow men, without the slightest acquaintance with the first principles of the healing art, but a continued and persevering course of intolerance, on the part of Medical Societies, will eventually triumph over these evils. Quackery is no stranger in other places, yet the decided stand which has been taken by medical men in most of the northern states, has nearly accomplished its extermination, and raised the character of the profession of medicine to a rank which it never can sustain where quackery is tolerated.

MEDICAL FEES.

It is a frequent remark, that country practitioners have no system of charging—each one estimating his labours according to the encouragement he receives.—In cities, on the other hand, physicians have an established table of charges, embracing all the varieties of practice, and no one will so underrate his practice, as to infringe on the rights of others. In most of the several towns in the interior, a physician will ride four miles to a patient, deal out every necessary medicine, &c. and charge but fifty cents! Perhaps another, in the same town, who has a more extended reputation, demands, for the same trouble, six times the amount.—From this circumstance—and more from this than any other—physicians absolutely injure each other, and destroy public confidence in themselves and their profession.

The idea of a *cheap doctor* has an electrical influence not with one but almost every class of people.—A few years since, an attempt was made by the Medical District Society of Worcester county, to regulate their charges—or at least, to establish some uniformity, but we regret to hear that, totally regardless of their resolves, a majority of its members continue the former mode of arranging their pecuniary accounts. The same evil exists in England and France. Surgeons as well as physicians of eminence, are uncontrolled in their charges, while those who are commencing the business, must content themselves with a pitiful sum, beneath a rich man's notice. A celebrated physician now living in Liverpool, for five visits, charged a gentleman of this city twenty-five guineas, and only recommended the patient, each time, to *run violently* to increase the circulation of his blood; and M. Corvisart asked fifty crowns to vaccinate a boy, five miles from Paris.—In our own country, it is not solely in this commonwealth the evil of which we are treating, exists; our remarks will apply to most of the inland towns of other states. When professional men estimate their labours lower than is justified by the expenses of their education, or than can be reasonably expected by their patients, it follows as a necessary consequence, that many worthy young men, who merit the confidence of an enlightened public, are doomed to depressing poverty, and older

practitioners entirely deprived of an income sufficient to support a family. Nothing can excite more contempt in the view of an honest man, than to see—as we have often seen—a new physician settling himself down under the eaves-droppings of an established practitioner, to gull the public of their money, and his worthy neighbour of his business, by *cheapening* professional services. True it is that “a new broom sweeps clean,” and true and lamentable it is too, that such a physician as we have alluded to, may sweep many patients into the grave before he becomes acquainted with the peculiarities of local situations, the winds and weather of the place, or the idiosyncrasies of those who swallow his nauseating potations with greedy avidity, merely because he administers them for a trifle, and is therefore called a *cheap doctor*. There are other considerations properly belonging to this subject, which with strict propriety come under the head of professional evils, but we hope the good sense of our readers will anticipate our thoughts, and assist in devising a remedy for those which we have already ventured to relate.

REPORT.

SPINA BIFIDA.

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer, By SAMUEL A. SHURTLEFF, M.D. of this city.

A female child, not long since, was born in this city, with this disease. A tumor, of the size of one half an orange, occupied the superior part of the sacrum. The unnatural presentation of the child rendered the rupture of it, during accouchment, unavoidable. In a very short time, however, after birth, a cicatrix formed, and it acquired its ordinary size. It broke once or twice afterwards. The discharge consisted of serum, with a small portion of blood. Attempts to remedy or cure congenital diseases of this kind, having always proved abortive, and the child having together with this malady, club-feet, it was thought advisable to allow the disease to take its own course. The tumor at length, after eight or ten days, became inflamed, gangrene ensued, and the child died in convulsions.

On examination, the portion of integuments over the tumor was found much thickened. It was lined with a membrane, apparently a continuation of the dura mater, which formed the immediate investment of the nervous filaments. These were enlarged, variously contorted, and of a livid red colour. The whole of the posterior part of the sacrum, and the spinous process of the fifth lumbar vertebra, were wanting. The vacant space was bounded by a thin edge of cartilage, as if nature had made efforts to complete her work, but failed from a want of strength.

INTELLIGENCE.

TO MEDICAL STUDENTS.—The Reading Term of the Berkshire Medical Institution, a popular School of Medicine, now under the patronage of this State, will commence the first Wednesday of the ensuing February, and we strongly recommend it to the notice of students, from the circumstance that any department of the profession can be studied there with as much profit as at any place in New-England, and at much less expense than even a general course of medical studies could be pursued with a private instructor in a country town. The whole amount of tuition

tion, for seven months, including a course of lectures on important branches of Surgery and Demonstrative Anatomy in the month of April, is only thirty-five dollars. Board, washing, and room-rent, are actually afforded cheaper in the Institution, than the bare hire of a room in this city. The various collections in Natural History are amply sufficient to illustrate the studies of the student, and when he takes into consideration the order of study adopted by the faculty, the method of systematizing the subjects which are required to be learned, and the regular hours of recitation, there can be no doubt of the advantages that would accrue from spending a season there. The opportunities of seeing the practice of physic and surgery, are flattering; and at all times, a pupil will be satisfied that Drs Batchelder and Childs, resident professors, are not only eminently qualified to instruct others in the science of medicine, but are never more happy than when serving those committed to their charge, with opportunities of seeing practice.—Letters of inquiry, in relation to the particular course of instruction, from gentlemen at a distance, may be addressed to the Editor of the *Intelligencer*.

VARIOLOID IN FAYETTEVILLE.—It is with much regret—says the *Cheraw (S. C.) Intelligencer*—we learn from several gentlemen recently from Fayetteville, that this fatal and alarming disease is rapidly spreading in that town. It is in its nature very like the Small-pox, and takes its name from its close resemblance to that fatal malady. It attacks indiscriminately those who have or have not had, the Small or Cow Pox, and is rarely fatal to those who have been vaccinated. We understand the Varioloid has been as yet chiefly confined to the blacks, among whom several deaths have occurred. The corporation of that town has acted promptly in endeavouring to arrest the progress of this distressing complaint. We are informed that one of the principal hotels has been closed, and the proprietor compelled to move out of the town. Notwithstanding the danger of the disease, we were considerably amused when we heard that the countrymen going into that place, were seen with their noses and mouths besmeared with tar, in order to prevent them from taking the epidemic.

PENNSYLVANIA QUACK BILL.—The Legislature of Pennsylvania at its last session having passed "A bill to regulate the practice of Physic and Surgery," sent it to the Governor for approval, and the Governor having returned it to the present sitting Legislature with his objections to it, it was on the 10th inst. rejected in the House of Representatives—yeas 32, nays 58.

MALE ATTENDANTS FOR THE SICK.—We have long wondered that our cities are not supplied with men who devote themselves to attending on male patients, and have no doubt such a class would be amply supported and extremely useful. We were therefore gratified to notice the *premier pas* in the following advertisement, inserted in the last *Nantucket Inquirer*:—

"*A Night-Watcher in Sickness.*—The subscriber respectfully informs the inhabitants of this town, that he shall in future hold himself in readiness to attend and wait upon the sick, during the night season, whenever his services may be required. His terms will be reasonable. He calculates to sleep in the day, so that he may be wide awake in the night. He waits for a call, and hopes that he shall be able to render himself useful in the line of his profession. BROWN COFFIN."

We hope Mr Coffin's example will be followed by some of our citizens.

POISONING.—We have been told—says a late London paper—that an apothecary in Belfast purchased, from a druggist, one pound of *Sulphas Magnesiae* (Epsom salts,) and one pound of *Sulphas Zincæ* (white vitriol,) both of which were so marked by the druggist's

shopman. In a few days afterwards, a woman residing in Patrick-street sent to the shop of the apothecary for two ounces of Epsom salts, instead of which, as it appeared afterwards, she received two ounces of white vitriol, which very much resembles the fine crystallized Epsom salt. Of consequence, excessive retching was produced, with a burning in the stomach and bowels. The most melancholy part of the story is, that fourteen ounces out of the pound of the white vitriol have been sold to different persons in mistake for the Epsom salts; one dose to a muscular man in town, whose constitution has enabled him to resist its effects; the rest to sailors, who have gone on their respective voyages, and regarding whom it may never be in our power to record an account of the effects of this error.

SOMETHING BETTER THAN HARTSHORN.—The following curious account of a limb being taken off, without the patient knowing any thing of the operation, is given in one of Mr Abernethy's recent lectures:—"As I was going through the square of the hospital one afternoon, in the summer-time, a dresser came to me and said, 'For God's sake come up, there is a man bleeding to death.' The man lay like a corpse on the bed, and no pulsation could be felt. Hartshorn had been applied to his nostrils without effect, but I said, 'Fetch me the amputating instruments; if the man is dead, there will be no harm in taking off his leg; and if not, there is no hartshorn like the cut of a knife.' I took off the man's limb; the warning-pan was then passed over him, burnt feathers and hartshorn were applied to his nostrils, and he began to breathe a little. He was totally unconscious of any operation having been performed—a circumstance which I have witnessed three times in the course of my life. The symptoms of irritative fever continued after the operation, but gradually subsided. Three or four days after the amputation, the stump was examined; it was of a greenish aspect, and looked exactly as if it had been made from a dead body in the dissecting-room. This man did well; and I remember the fellow a sturdy beggar in the outskirts of London, a few years after."

INTELLIGENCE OF THE AGE.—Seeing that Intelligence is the mother of all mischief, according to the Prophets, we ought to rejoice in communicating any fact, which would serve to show that any portion of the population remains untainted with it. The friends of legitimacy will, doubtless, regard it therefore as a good sign of the times, that a periodical paper, under the title of "The Straggling Astrologer; or Magazine of Astrology, Geomancy, and Oecult Philosophy," has reached a twenty-third number. Sir Thomas L. the noted conjurer, is understood to be the Editor, and several other celebrated country gentlemen of the House of Commons, contribute prophecies. In the title-page of the number before us, is a view of the Court of France, with death on the throne, and the following paragraph explains some delay in the publication of the prediction so adumbrated:—

"*Prediction relative to the death of the king of France.*—Our readers will perceive this event plainly prefigured in the Hieroglyphic of the present Number. We are likewise confident we shall be readily believed, when we state the design was sent to the engraver for more than a month previous to its appearing; but through some unforeseen contingency, and the absence of the publisher, it was by some means neglected, and consequently did not appear last week, as it should have done. The astrological cause of this neglect may be owing chiefly to the retrogradation of Mercury in Libra—which has also caused many losses in the commercial, literary, and mercantile world, the stopping of the rich banking-house in Berner's-street, and other events prefigured in page 246 of the present work."—*Lond. paper.*

THE PLAGUE IN EGYPT—begins to lose its malignity; nineteen thousand persons have died of it between the commencement of March, and the 13th of June.

CHOLERA MORBUS.—We regret to state that the cholera morbus has been prevalent in Madras.

SMALL-POX IN MENDON, MASS.—We are under the disagreeable necessity of announcing, on the authority of the Selectmen of Mendon, that the Small-pox has made its appearance in that town. We are astonished that in an enlightened country, the physicians of any

town should be so negligent as to allow any of the inhabitants to remain unprotected against this malady.

PUTRID SORE THROAT.—This disease is extensively prevalent in some parts of Virginia. Among females and children it is fatal to a deplorable degree.

JOHN THURSTON, M. D. has been appointed Post Surgeon in the Army, at the Portsmouth station—vice Dr Goodhue, resigned.

A DOUBLE DELIVERY.—At a village near Cambridge, (Eng.) Mrs M. who keeps the Post-Office, is likewise a Midwife, in considerable practice. A Cantab passing that way, wrote with a diamond on the front pane of glass—"Ladies and Letters safely delivered."

Errata.—Page 139, column 3, line 2, for *fear*, read *Lear*; line 23 from bottom, for *the intelligence*, read *intelligence*. Page 144, col. 2, line 15, for *meta phusis*, read *meta phusis*.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,—Ending January 22; from the Health-Office Returns.

January 17.—Nancy Sargent; Esther Fillebrown, 36; Susan Upham, 19. 18th.—Caroline Eustis Haven, 6 mo. 19th.—Stephen Augustus Dix, 16 mo; Sarah B. Cushing, 22. 20th.—Samuel Jenkins; Henry Feltstead; Clark L. Wendell, 18 days; Elizabeth Wells, 78; George Drake. 21st.—Simon Bailey, 41. 22d.—Francis Thompson; Benjamin Pidgeon.

Lung Fever, 3—*Croup*, 1—*Old Age*, 1—*City poor*, 5.

DIED.—At Greenfield, (Mass.) on the 17th inst. **SETH WASHBURN, M. D.** aged 34. Dr W. was a native of Leicester, in this State; he completed his education at the Medical School in Boston, in 1816, and immediately engaged in the practice of Medicine at Greenfield, where he continued in extensive business, until within a few months previous to his death, which was caused by phthisis pulmonalis, that in its incipient state assumed the appearance of a stomach affection, with which he had long contended.—Dr Washburn's character was remarkable for zeal, activity, and devotedness to his profession; possessing a mind clear and comprehensive, and an ardent thirst for improvement in his profession, with a disposition actively benevolent, he lost no opportunity of obtaining a knowledge of all that could be useful to himself, or be rendered so to those who required his assistance. Few physicians have been more careful to avail themselves early of all that could be of practical utility in their profession, and but few have been rewarded with more attachment and respect from their patients. His professional skill, his anxiety, his kind attention, and his sympathy for the sufferings of those he was called to relieve, soon obtained for him extensive business, which was increasing until his disease warned him to desist—yet his solicitude for those who needed his services, prevented his paying sufficient attention to the approaches of his own disorder, and he continued to visit the sick until debility alone prevented. Modest and unassuming in his manners, and reserved in his demeanour in the company of strangers, he was most beloved by those who were most intimately acquainted with him, and by whom he will long be remembered with affection for his many virtues, and his loss greatly lamented for his usefulness. A. B.

At Dayton, Ohio, on the 21st of Nov. Dr **FREDERICK RIDGLEY**, in the 68th year of his age. Dr R. ranked among the first medical practitioners in Lexington and its vicinity, for more than thirty years, and for his correct moral deportment, benevolent and charitable disposition, was universally esteemed.

At Matanzas, Dr **CHARLES MILLER**, after an illness of more than a fortnight, occasioned by being stabbed by a person who was passing, after overtaking him when returning from visiting a patient.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER :

Published weekly, at two dollars a year. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

PRINTING, IN ALL ITS BRANCHES, NEATLY EXECUTED AT THIS OFFICE.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1825.

No. 38.

OBSERVATIONS.

POISONING BREAD.

We are surrounded, as it were, with enemies; poison is administered to us in every thing we eat and drink. One year some kind friend informs us that our Porter is poisoned, and that it threatens death or a madhouse to all who swallow it; another year it is discovered that the Oil-cake which fattens our bullocks, communicates disease to them and to those who eat them; and now Bread itself, the staff of life, it appears, has long been as poisonous as toadstools. Human ingenuity having exhausted all other subjects, is now directed against the human species itself. What may we not apprehend? The brewer, the miller, the baker, the grazier, carry on a war of adulteration against each other, and all of us! We fly to the apothecary, and, by the aid of the druggist, he completes the work of death with adulterated medicines. The species was first destroyed by a flood; the second destruction will be effected by the grand conspiracy we are in against each other. The earth would be left uninhabited, but that fortunately there are some animals not indebted to baker, butcher, brewer, or druggist, and as the process of vegetation cannot be corrupted, (plants differing from men, in this, that they take only the food suited to them,) they will survive the race of man.

Hitherto the race has been miraculously preserved amidst all these evils; but it would not surprise us if some morning we should be all found dead in our beds; the man who plumed himself on poisoning his neighbour, being in turn poisoned by that neighbour. In the mean time mortality seems to have been hitherto kept in check by some miracle. In walking the streets, one is provoked to see the women look as fresh and healthy as ever. Neither have we heard that the sextons have of late years made greater fortunes than usual. These enigmas should be solved. That we are poisoned every day, and every hour, cannot be doubted. If any doubt remain on the subject, it will be removed by the following extract from a pamphlet by Dr Manning:—

"In many years practice of my profession, (says this ingenious physician,) I have never seen such havock among persons of delicate constitutions, such aggravation of complaints in the unhealthy, or so many disorders among the robust and strong, without obvious causes, as within the last seven months. In grown persons chronic diseases have been exasperated, and acute brought on with the most violent symptoms, often in a strange, and altogether extraordinary way; and sudden death has snatched off the healthy after meals, in a manner new to the physician, and terrible to the survivors. Infants have pined through tedious illnesses; and complaints, at other times as easy to remove, as they are hasty to come on in their tender frames, appear now obstinate and unconquerable.

"As it is usual in the profession to keep a diary of cases which fall under our care, I have,

with a degree of terror not known to me before, looked over those of the period just named; and as the cause has not appeared in the air or seasons, or any other usual occasion, I have considered all attendant circumstances.

"The condition of bread at this time is such as may alarm the least attentive; and it has been growing to this unprecedented adulteration during the months now mentioned. These exaggerations of symptoms, more frequent illnesses, and sudden deaths, have kept time with the adulteration of the bread. For this reason I have endeavoured to explain to the public the nature of that universal food; to show what bread is, and what it should be: and its effects when genuine, and when sophisticated.

"The difference between bread made as it should be, and such as is now sold, is obvious to the senses; and a few rules will serve to show when it is more, and when less adulterated. Pure bread is of a clear colour and mellow texture, the crust is brown, the crumb soft when moderately new, the smell is fresh, pleasant and wholesome, and the taste sweet. On the contrary, the crumb of adulterated bread is harsh, and the crust pale; the smell is raw and disagreeable, and the taste has nothing of that sweetness; neither has the crumb at any time the due consistence, for it is made up of ingredients which will not mix with the yeast and water in the manner that flour does. The paleness of the crust is one great article, and it depends upon this plain cause: flour when burnt becomes brown; but the ingredients added to bread by those who adulterate it, remain white in the fire. Whiting, lime, alum, and ashes of bones, are alike in this respect; they will continue white when burnt; and therefore, the more there is of them in the bread, the paler will be the crust. There cannot be a more obvious way of discovering the fraud, than by comparing the crust of an honestly made loaf with that of one of the others. We shall lay down in the succeeding pages more certain methods of detecting frauds: but these are obvious to the senses; and if there were no other, they are sufficient.

"Every one knows what bread properly should be. It is made of flour ground from sound corn, with a little yeast for fermentation, a very little salt for relish, and as much water as will bring it to a paste; this, baked to a due hardness, is bread—the most wholesome of all foods. The adulterations of it have begun early; but they are of late increased to a degree that is altogether intolerable; and, if not prevented, will entail diseases and misery on ourselves and our descendants. Two sets of men concur in them, millers and bakers; the former add all they can to increase the quantity of the flour, and improve its colour; and the latter, receiving it from them in this condition, charge it higher with new mixtures. The miller adulterates it because the ingredients are cheap, and add to the quantity; and the baker, because he finds the same tempting profit.

"If the miller used harmless ingredients to re-cover flour which he bought as good, but found

otherwise; or even if the baker, in time of scarcity, added, to increase the quantity, the meal of innocent vegetables, they might be in some degree excused; but the crime at present admits of no apology or mitigation. There is such an abundant quantity of corn in the kingdom, that an honest man must wonder where it is lodged, or how the price is kept up. We know the crops have been very good, and none has been lawfully exported or consumed by the distillers: therefore the plenty is absolute and certain, however it may be engrossed and withheld from the poor. The miller has his price in proportion to what he pays the engrosser; and the baker is allowed the same fair profit, whether he give more or less for it at the market. This cuts off all apology from these persons, as well as all necessity for the practice; and should arouse the compassionate great against them.

"The ingredients they add to flour are in general six:—1. Bean meal. 2. Chalk. 3. Whiting. 4. Slaked lime. 5. Alum; and 6. Ashes of bones. All these may be discovered in the bread now commonly sold; and every miller and baker knows how to use them; but let them from this time forward fear a discovery and proof: this may be made easily, and the laws are open and severe. There is besides these a seventh ingredient used, of more mischievous quality than any of them, and not so easily discovered: the physician will know what I mean when I add that its quality is suffocation. To this I attribute the many sudden deaths after eating. I have separated this from bread within these few days, and may produce it before those who have authority to punish; but shall be well excused from naming it, lest I teach those who, with sufficient wickedness, are deficient in knowledge.

"All these ingredients answer the mealman's dishonest purpose, as they increase the quantity; and they doubly answer the fraudulent bakers, for they not only make the less flour serve, but the burnt bones in particular take in more water than the flour would; thus the bread is rendered heavier, and the baker boasts in his own mind that he has got the better of the magistrate's care; not considering the healths and lives of his customers. In consequence of this, bread, which has well been called the staff of life, becomes an arrow in the hand of death; men pine with diseases from it, or perish instantly, and infants are an universal sacrifice.

"There was no ingredient originally added to flour for the making of bread that had a purgative quality; but the bakers, more attentive to the consequences of their unjust practice, than those who felt the effects of them, soon found that chalk and alum, burnt bones and the rest, gave an astringent quality to their bread. I cannot favour these people so far as to think humanity influenced them upon this occasion, for that would have made them forbear the practice. The fear of being discovered by this accident set them upon their guard; and this gave rise to a set of men more dangerous to the public than themselves, called Bread Doctors.

"These, who had gained their knowledge, perhaps, from the sweepings of an apothecary's shop, or more probably behind the counter of a retail chemist, engaged themselves, to prevent all apparent ill effects, by adding medicines of another quality. Hence jalap has become an ingredient in our daily food; and as those indifferent judges compute the quantity, or as the careless servant to the baker mixes the ingredients, our bread becomes purgative or astringent, or approaches more or less to the middle quality.

"That these ingredients are used in making bread, is certain, for I have separated all of them from it. The consequences are terrible, and it cannot be doubted but the legislature will take the public cause into consideration. The offence deserves no mercy, because it admits no excuse of accident; nor any temptation, except the highwayman's cause, the plunder of the people.

"If the bread be browner than it ought, hard and crumbly, there is bean flour mixed with the wheat, and probably no other ingredient. This is, perhaps, the most desirable bread that can be had in a time of general adulteration. If it be white and crumbly, there is, probably, bean flour, whiting, and alum. If it be white and heavy, there is reason to suspect slaked lime. If it be white, brittle, and close, mouldering into crumbs as it is touched, probably there are slaked lime and bone ashes in it. If it be heavy and brittle, whiting is most likely to be the principal ingredient. There is bread so loaded with this, that it will sink like a stone in water. If it be heavy, rough, and solid, there is reason to suspect jalap; for it is the quality of that drug to prevent lightness. These are the obvious marks of bad bread, and, according to these, the mistress of a family, the housekeeper, or common servant, may judge of it: but this, though a rational conjecture, is no more than a conjecture. There are ways by which those who are accustomed to the analysis of mixed substances, may more certainly discover the fraud.

"The regular method to detect the fraud is this: cut off the crust from a loaf, and, setting that aside, cut the crumb into very thin slices; break these, but not very much, and put them into a glass cucurbit, with a large quantity of water. Set this, without shaking, into a sand furnace, and let it stand, with a moderate warmth, four and twenty hours. The crumb of the bread will in this time soften in all its parts, and the ingredients will separate from it. The alum will dissolve in the water, and may be extracted from it in the usual way. The jalap, if any have been used, will swim upon the top in a coarse film, and the other ingredients, being heavy, will sink quite to the bottom. These are the principal; and the pap being poured off, there will remain the chalk, bone ashes, or whatsoever else was used, in a white powder at the bottom. This is the best and most regular method of finding the deceit; but as cucurbits and sand furnaces are not at hand in private families, there is a more familiar method. Let the crumb of a loaf be sliced as before directed, and put with a great deal of water into a large earthen pipkin. Let this be set over a very gentle fire, and kept a long time moderately hot; and the pap being poured off, the bone ashes, or other ingredients, will be found at the bottom."—*London paper.*

ANATOMICAL GRIEVANCES,

OR, A GENTLE HINT TO THOSE IN AUTHORITY.

If there is any subject on which medical men are warranted in feeling aggrieved, that of our present remarks is certainly the one.

The laws of the several states, without exception, require that every practitioner of medicine and surgery shall have received a regular course of instruction before he shall be permitted to take charge of the health of individuals, and they inflict the severest penalties on those who have the hardihood to attempt the practice of physic without those qualifications which are generally specified in the law. Now it is understood that a regular course of medical studies embraces a system of surgery, obstetrics, therapeutics, materia medica, chemistry, &c., and the particular understanding in all such state regulations is, that the physician shall and must be well acquainted with human anatomy, or he shall not, under any consideration whatever, be protected by the wholesome laws of the commonwealth in the capacity of a practitioner. Legislators have marked out this plan of education, and, in the same great book of their consolidated wisdom, have declared that a violation of the grave, the taking of a dead body, for any purpose whatever, shall be a high crime against the community, and punished in the most energetic and exemplary manner, both by fines, hard labour, state prison sufferings, and even by coercive bodily inflictions. What, under such circumstances, are professed anatomists to do? Do our General Courts wish tacitly to encourage the heinous crime of theft, and mould the honourable faculty of the United States into a band of thieves, who, like the Spartan youth with the stolen fox, who was caressed for his courage when he secreted his living prize till the hungry animal gnawed out his vitals, must carefully conceal their stolen property or else fall personal sacrifices to a course of conduct the laws themselves render indispensable?

Now we stand amongst the foremost to punish with infamy the person who can violate the quietness of the grave; it is a crime against the laws of our nature, as well as the laws of our land; and it is lamentable indeed that the latter should compel us to commit a crime against the former, and then punish us for the deed; yet so it is;—the laws declare that a man shall be hanged who murders another, and they appoint officers and means to execute their design;—they declare that every practitioner of medicine shall be thoroughly versed in anatomy, and, under heavy penalties, forbid him the only means of acquiring this knowledge! If the people are desirous of having expert surgeons and skilful physicians, give us the means of becoming so; and if the framers of our laws would make the proper distinction between the disinterment of bodies and the dissection of them, all difficulties might be easily removed. The former only is abhorrent to the feelings of the people, and if the latter could be pursued without it, the country might be supplied with a useful and skilful faculty, and its laws respecting disinterment remain without violation.

We cannot think that the mere dissection of a subject can injure, or be objected to by any one. The body that is lifeless cannot suffer; the friends may regard with dread this method of disposing of the remains of one they have lost, but to what degree does this evil exist among those who rank themselves among the friends of a murderer or felo-de-se, a culprit at the state prison, or a member of the city alms-house, whose body, when interred in the usual form, is not followed by an individual to the grave? If such extreme delicacy is

to be the guide, why does it not operate with just as much force to prevent imprisonment and execution, as dissection? The one is not more conducive to the public welfare than the other—it is not more revolting to the feelings—it is not more loudly called for by justice or humanity. When the inhabitants of Abdera sent for Hippocrates to cure Democritus, (the pride of their city,) of a supposed madness, the mere circumstance of finding his distinguished patient engaged in the dissection of a lamb, to ascertain the origin of the bile, induced him without hesitation to pronounce Democritus the wisest man in all Abdera. This opinion was no sooner promulgated, than the philosopher's name was borne on the wings of popular favor, and the immediate erection of a brazen statue in commemoration of his labors for the welfare of his fellow-creatures, was one of the first acts of the inhabitants of his native city. But in this boasted age of *light*, the gallows, the whipping-post, the treadmill and penitentiary, are thought inadequate punishment for undergoing whole years of anxious labor simply that we may know how a broken bone should be mended, or an obscure artery secured after a dangerous wound, when life is ebbing at every successive pulsation.

Let the legislature once grant our medical schools the bodies of state paupers, and they would soon rid the state of the expense of maintaining a numerous family; for hundreds are now fed at the public charge, who could and would live by their industry, were they informed their bodies, after death, (should they die while drawing a support from the public chest,) would be given up, *pro bono publico*. It is often said that the bodies of criminals are sufficient for all purposes of the dissecting-room; and so they would be if as many were annually executed in this country as at the Old Bailey; but we are even denied the bodies of murderers, unless they are willing to sell themselves before an execution. Grant, too, the bodies of state prison convicts, and the terror which would be inspired by the act, would lessen the number of those who now throng the cells of that catch-all of misery and crime.

We are unwilling to be obliged to steal; still, it is at present the only way in which medical schools are enabled to carry on their courses of anatomical instructions, and we can see no other possible method of keeping up the anatomical lectures in our praiseworthy institutions of medicine, than to continue this system, repugnant as it is to personal feelings, moral virtue, and popular opinion. Subjects must and will be had at all hazards; and when the legislature becomes sensible of the necessity of making a suitable provision for the anatomical theatres of the schools they have chartered, fewer graves will be hunted of their hallowed deposits, and fewer will be the complaints of a now justly enraged public.

PECULIAR EXPRESSIONS OF THE HUMAN FACE.

(Concluded from page 150.)

Curious as it may appear in a physiological point of view, all *herbiferous* animals are incapable of expressing any emotion of anger in the face, and the locomotive muscles of the hind feet are the sole agents in this expression; thus the horse kicks, and the cow sometimes overturns the full pail to the great annoyance and mortification of the dairy-maid. Neither have they muscles by which pleasure can be exhibited, and hence rage is the only passion they ever discover. But in *carnivorous* animals, there is a complete transposition of the seat of expression, and in them anger is expressed by the mouth; hence the tyger, for instance, growls and snarls before he leaps. Here again, we should ob-

serve that carnivorous quadrupeds in general can exhibit two passions only—viz. joy and madness, and instead of finding the seat of pleasurable expression at the point where they testify dissatisfaction, we find rage in the face, and joy manifested by the sacral extremity. Thus the dog terrifies the stranger with looks of anger, and welcomes his master by wagging the tail. A writer in the Spectator ascribes to the dog the feeling of pity for the misfortunes of his friend, where he makes Colin, the shepherd, when mourning for the loss of the sylvan companion of his bosom, say,

"I call my dog to me—I call him poor Tray,
But his tail but just waggles, he so pities me!"

It seems to us that this emotion is expressed by a slow movement of the tail, whilst the expression of joy is manifested by its more rapid motion.

The intimate, though almost indefinable connection between facial expression and the passions of the mind, can be illustrated by gazing intently upon the features of a companion while we relate to him some tragic story, in which the hero or the heroine are first in imminent danger, then plunged in deep despair, and then suddenly raised again to wealth and happiness. If we wish an exhibition of the miser's expression, talk to a money loving man about commercial losses and a late depression of the public stocks, and lastly, relate to him the case of a dear friend who has just been ruined by some flaw in a mortgage on which he had loaned a large amount of money, and we shall see a peculiar facial expression that Sir Joshua Reynolds says no painter can ever imitate, because the tints and shades vary every instant. But though varying, the expression is that of *concern*—for he is trying to recollect whether he is in a like predicament, by rapidly comparing one bargain with another of more recent date. The *melancholy* face is accompanied with slow motions of the limbs, and when you tell the crying philosopher of a terrible conflagration in a distant city and that many lives were lost, and amongst the rest two beautiful infants, in a remote part of the building, were seen to fall into the very centre of the flames, he draws his hands out of his pockets, sighs deeply, and says all this doesn't surprise him in the least, for he had long been expecting such an event would take place. In both of these temperaments, the general action of the muscles of the face, and the muscles of the extremities which produce corporeal expression, indicate precisely the general character of the persons. The dark or habitually gloomy countenance indicates the strongest passions. In general, the man in whom it exists never has a confidant, for fear he shall afterwards dislike him—he never loves, because he fancies he confers too great a favour—and when he hates, he hates forever. This character is finely drawn in the interlude called the Debating Society, in which a melancholy man is called upon for a song, and although he accepts the invitation, in his heart damns the members for making the request. Nevertheless, he assures the company no man loves fun more than himself—and furthermore tells the society that *hilarity, a bottle of wine, and a good song, are all that life affords*. This shows that he has an ungovernable anxiety to be thought an interesting companion by those with whom he associates.

There is another kind of expression peculiar to active minds, that is full of meaning, at the same time that it is totally independent of surrounding objects. It is an interesting expression that is created by the labour of the mind which has resources within itself. It is an expression that results from an existing sympathy between the powers of volition and the muscular tissue of

the face, which is referable to the distribution of the cerebral nerves near the eyes and mouth. Where this expression exists, the individual is never more alone than when surrounded by his friends, nor ever more social than when there is no one to converse with him. This is reverie, and approximates to what is called somnambulism*—for if you ask him a question, he seems to rouse from some pleasant contemplation, barely gives an answer, and then recoils again within himself. Such an expression is animated when the mind becomes interested, nor is it ever melancholy to such a degree that in a given time smiles are not more frequent than frowns. Such is represented to be the expression of Madam de Stael, who was so absent in her mind, that the first evening she arrived in London, she called at a gentleman's door and inquired if the king was at home.

The most finished and beautiful expression is in the possession of the female only; in our age, the graces and the arts vie with each other in perfecting the human face divine, and raising the sterling beauty of female features to an equality with that attributed to the angelic inhabitants of another world. Such is the influence of woman's expression over the most ferocious of men, that the softest incantation of her eye diverts him from the paths of glory, and rivets with a spell, the mighty enterprises of his soul. Beauty in the sovereign face of Egypt's ancient queen, charmed the ruling despot of Rome, and Antony, who might have vanquished half the globe, could never conquer Cleopatra's matchless charms.

To account for the boundless variety in the countenances of mankind, when the general form of the parts and the chief points of expression are precisely alike in every individual, is far beyond the power of human intellect, and we shall only add that Nature, when she cast the human face, exhibited both the extent and the perfection of her power.

MEDICATED MUFFINS.

Mr Philip Moon, a master muffin-maker in Seven Dials, London, was summoned before the Commissioners, at the suit of Mr Richard Jaggars, a Whitechapel manufacturer of yeast, for the sum of 17s. 6½d. alleged to be due and owing to the said Richard Jaggars for yeast sold and delivered.

Mr Richard Jaggars handed in his account, and having made oath to the sale and delivery, the Court asked Mr Moon what he had to say why an order for its immediate payment should not be made out against him?

"Why, gentlemen," said Mr Moon, "I've this ere to say—I makes muffins, and crumpets, and all that ere; and this ere money what he demands of me, was for yeast what wouldn't make good muffins; and that's the reason as I *refoosed* to pay him for it; as I shall specify by respectable witnesses as was made *werry* much indisposed by eating of 'em.—Mrs Mulroony, please to step forward, *Marm.*"

Mrs Mulroony, a Milesian matron of ample circumference, bore forward majestically through the press of suitors, and was examined by the presiding Commissioner, in form and manner following:—

What are you, Mrs Mulroony?

The mother of six childer all alive at this present—and merry, thanks be for the same.

Are you married or single?

Married three times, and Mat Mulroony the last—or how would I come by the childer? But

* See Medical Intelligencer, vol. II, p. 31.

I'm here to the fore to talk about muffins, and not *mahtrimony*;—and bad ones them muffins was sure enough!

Did you eat of them?

Faith did I:—and by the same token they *disorther'd* my *intrigs* extramely. It was afternoon that day Mat Mulroony went to *Chilsea* for his *pinshin*, (pension,) and forgot to come back by reason of the beer.

Well, and what then?

Why, then, Mrs Flaherty came into me place, and, "Where's Mat?" said she. "Off for his pinshin," says I. "Then we'll wet it with *tay*," says she, "and you shall find *tay*, and I'll find muffins and *butther*," said she to me; and meself sitting darning Mat Mulroony's white cottons at that same time. So Mrs Flaherty, Michael Flaherty's wife, at the brewhouse—and a good wife she is—went for the muffins, and we *butthered* 'em well, and tuck 'em for *tay*, with *bohay* at three-pence an ounce, from Mr Millikin's round the corner; but, bad luck to them muffins, they wouldn't agree with us any how!

How do you know it to be the muffins that disagreed with you? Perhaps it was the *bohay*, as you call it?

Deevle a bit the *bohay* did it at all, for I took pails of it aforetime without danger, and all the folks said it was them muffins;—bad luck to 'em, I say agen, for they puffed me up like Tom Moriarty's big feather-bed, that burst in the stuffing!

"And your honours 'el plase to take notice that she isn't the same woman since!" said Mr Matthew Mulroony himself—"and I hopes I'll get some recompense for it from yer honours, or what will I do with the childer this hard winter to come." The Commissioners told Mr Mulroony he must even do as his own wisdom directed him; and they told Mr Moon they must make an order for the immediate payment of the debt, unless he had better evidence to show why they should not.—This decision caused much dismay among the lady muffin-eaters, many of whom were in court, for as they said, if people could not eat *muffins* in confidence, there was an end to every thing; and poor Mr Moon, the muffin-maker, went murmuring away, quite chop-fallen.

REPORT.

WOUND THROUGH THE CHEST,

PIERCING THE DIAPHRAGM AND THE STOMACH.

On the 7th of May, 1824, a man, about twenty years of age, on the evening of his wedding-day, plunged a very sharp cook's knife in the interval between the sixth and seventh rib, on the left side, and towards the sternum. He immediately fainted away. The medical men who were called in, judging from the situation and direction of the wounds, and the marks of blood upon the knife, that it had penetrated about two and a half inches; the symptoms announced an internal hemorrhage, which appeared to cease for a time: it, however, soon recurred, and the man died thirty-four hours after committing this desperate act.

The body being opened, the following appearances presented themselves:—The wound had penetrated the cavity of the thorax for the space of an inch, but the lung was not wounded; yet there was a considerable effusion of blood on that side, arising from the wound of an intercostal artery. At the spot where the diaphragm

was wounded, a sound was stopped in consequence of the protrusion of a portion of omentum. In the abdomen, the stomach was found pierced to the extent of three lines, at its anterior and superior part; and an effusion of blood had taken place into the colon, extending to the hypogastric region.

The conclusion which the reporter of the case (Dr Millet) draws from this examination, is, that it tends to confirm the experiment of Dr Williams, and goes to prove that the lungs do not, in their natural state, fill the interior of the pleura in the act of respiration; for, had that been the case in the instance above related, the lung would not have escaped without being wounded.

—*Lond. Med. & Phys. Journ.*

INTELLIGENCE.

MEDICAL FEES.—A list of Medical and Surgical charges established by the associated Physicians and Surgeons of the city of New-York, Dec. 1815, and approved by the New-York County Medical Society, Jan. 2d, 1816.

	From dol. 00 to 5
Verbal advice	- - - - - 10 to 15
Letter of advice	- - - - - 5
Ordinary visit	- - - - - 3
Consultation do.	- - - - - 7
After visits, each	- - - - - 1 1-2
Night visit	- - - - - 3
Visit at distance, per mile	- - - - - 5
Do. to Brooklyn	- - - - - 10
Do. to Powles' Hook, summer	- - - - - 5
Do. to Staten Island	- - - - - 10
Both these last to be double in winter or storm.	
First visit in epidemic, or other diseases, where personal danger is apprehended	5
Each succeeding, under the same circumstances	3
Vaccination	5 to 10
Each dressing of wound	1 to 5
Cupping	5
Bleeding in arm or foot	2
Do. in jugular vein	5
Dressing blister	1
Scarifying eye	5
Puncturing oedematous swellings	2
Inserting seton	5
Do. issue	5
Visits in haste to be charged double.	
Detention, 3 dollars per hour—25 dollars per day.	
Introducing catheter	5
Each succeeding time	2
Do. in females	5
Extracting calculus from the urethra	20 to 30
Reducing simple fracture	10 to 20
Do. compound fracture	30
Do. dislocations	5 to 20
Of the hip	30 to 50
Reducing prolapsus ani	5
Do. Hernia	10 to 25
Opening abscess	1 to 5
Amputation of the breast	50
Do. leg	50
Do. hip or shoulder	100 to 150
Do. finger or toe	10
Extirpation of testis	50
Do. of eye	100
Do. tonsils	25
Do. tumour	5 to 20
Perforating rectum	25
Do. nostrils, external ear, vagina, or urethra	5 to 25
Dividing the frenum linguae	3 to 5
Paracentesis of abdomen	15 to 25
Do. of thorax	50
Operation for tic douloureux	25
Do. for harelip	25
Do. for hernia	125
Do. fistula in perineo	50
Do. fistula in ano	50
Do. for phymosis	10
Do. fistula lachrymalis	40
Do. paraphymosis	10
Do. wry neck	50

Do. depressing cataract	- - - - - From dol. 00 to 125
Do. extracting do.	- - - - - 150
Do. anterior of Saunders	- - - - - 25
Do. popliteal aneurism	- - - - - 100
Operation for carotid aneurism	- - - - - 200
Do. for inguinal or external iliac	- - - - - 200
Do. brachial	- - - - - 50
Do. radial, tibial, or ulnar	- - - - - 25
Lithotomy	- - - - - 150
Bronchotomy	- - - - - 25
Trepanning	- - - - - 100
Circumcision	- - - - - 10
Common case of midwifery	- - - - - 25 to 35
Tedious or difficult labours	- - - - - 36 to 60
Case of gonorrhoea	- - - - - 15 to 30
Do. syphilis	- - - - - 25 to 100
Preparing and administering enema	- - - - - 2
Visit on board a vessel at the wharf	- - - - - 2 1-2
Do. in the stream	- - - - - 5
Do. at Governor's Island	- - - - - 5
Do. for opinion involving a question of law, and in which a physician may be subpoenaed	- - - - - 5
Extracting tooth at the patient's house	- - - - - 2
Do. at the surgeon's	- - - - - 1

Pharmaceutical Charges.	dol. cts.
A single prescription furnished	- - - - - 0 50
Pills, per dozen	- - - - - 0 75
Boluses each	- - - - - 0 50
Electuaries, per ounce	- - - - - 1 00
Infusion per lb.	- - - - - 2 00
Solutions per lb.	- - - - - 1 50
Tinctures per ounce	- - - - - 0 50
Ointments and cerates per ounce	- - - - - 0 50
Blistering plaster, according to size	- - - - - 0 50
Other plasters	- - - - - 0,50 to 2 50
Decoctions per lb.	- - - - - 2 00
A single medicine dispensed without visit	- - - - - 1 00
An anodyne draught	- - - - - 0 50

ANNUS MIRABILIS.—The year 1824 will long be remembered in the annals of the medical history of New England, for the remarkable number of extraordinary births which it has left upon its records. Hardly a paper reaches us, but contains some *accouchement extraordinaire*—some recital of births of two or more children in different parts of the country, with the agreeable addition—*la mere et les enfants se portent bien*. Twins have been uncommonly frequent, not only with newly married females, but with those also who have reared a large family of children. In this city and vicinity such cases have been unusually numerous, and a medical gentleman of Maine, of the highest standing in his profession, and whose practice in this branch has been greater and more successful, perhaps, than any one individual in the state, remarked last season that he had several cases within pistol shot of each other, and all about the same period of time, a circumstance which had not occurred before during twenty or thirty years practice, although he has attended, probably, from one to two thousand cases. We have no better reason to offer, at present, for this remarkable change in the common law of nature, except that the year was as healthy as it was fruitful.

DR MOTT'S OPERATION.—We learn from the New-York Medical and Physical Journal, that the boy upon whom Dr Mott performed the amputation at the hip-joint, in October last, has completely recovered. The thigh bone was diseased as far as the trochanter. About six weeks since, Dr Mott operated upon a female, thirty-four years of age, in whose abdomen a child had remained two years and eleven months. The fetus is in a perfect state, and of the size of a child seven months old. It lay along the umbilicus upon the small intestines, with the head to the left. Eleven hours after the operation, the woman expired. She seemed to have perished from the mere irritation of the operation.—*New-York Chron. of Med. & Surg.*

FEMALE SENSIBILITY.—The Edinburgh Star mentions that an old man in the village of Branent, having a diseased foot, it was decided by his medical attendants to amputate his leg, and they went the next day to perform the operation, when, to their utter astonishment, they found the leg already amputated and dressed by his beloved help-mate, who vowed she would allow no one to put a knife into her dear Cherry, (the

name her husband goes by,) except herself. What is still more extraordinary, the man is doing well.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.—Dr O'Neil, of Comber, has discovered a chemical process by which hog's lard can be converted into an article for dipping and moulding candles, superior to Russian tallow, without any additional expense. When prepared according to this plan it is equal to white wax or spermaceti. The candles made of it burn with superior light, resembling a flame of the purest gas. They are altogether void of the offensive smell and greasy touch of other candles, and when burning in the closest apartment, have no smell, and emit no smoke. They burn by many minutes longer than any other candle of the same weight, and with a change of process only in preparing, they can be made either of a beautiful golden yellow, or of a snow white colour, which the effects of light or time cannot alter.

BIOGRAPHY OF DR CULLEN.—The celebrated Dr Thomson, Professor of Military Surgery in the University of Edinburgh, is preparing for the press, an Account of the Life and Writings of Dr William Cullen. Also an edition of his Philosophy and first Lines of the Practice of Physic; to which will be added, various original Papers, taken from the unpublished manuscripts of that Author.

TEA A SLOW POISON.—By way of an argument in favour of the doctrine that tea is a *slow* poison, we adduce the following fact from an English paper—"there is now living in this city, (Hereford,) an old woman, named Smith, who is in her 81st year, and she has never from her birth tasted of any kind of spirits, wine, malt liquor, or cider; her sole beverage has been tea."

SORE THROAT.—This troublesome disease is extensively prevalent in this city, and throughout the N. England States. We have never known it more general, though happily its symptoms are not remarkable for obstinacy or malignity.

VARIOLOID.—The small-pox has made its appearance in Irish Creek settlement, Northumberland co. Pa. in the family of Mr Taylor, who died with it; at this time nine in number are confined with it, and we understand some of them are in danger.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

Ending January 23; from the Health-Office Returns.

January 21.—Ann Goodwin, 2. 22d.—Ruth Sherman, 48; Sarah A Ballard, 23. 23d.—Thomas Stack, 8; Moses Hobson, 31; Benjamin P. Homer, jun. 19; Nathaniel Frothingham, 79; — Woods, 24th.—Jonathan Harrington, 45. 25th.—John Davis; John O'Neil, 23; Ann Mullen, 1 mo. 26th.—Hannah Vose, 72; Eunice Bailey, 72; Benjamin Ingalls, 17; Phinehas Pratt, 42; Rebecca Larkin, 61; William Newman, 68. 27th.—Mary Morris, 71. 28th.—Thomas Dunn.

Hooping-Cough, 1—Fever, 1—Accidental, 1—Leprosy, 1—Consumption, 2—Hectic Fever, 1—Inflammation of the Bladder, 1—Paralytic, 1—Debility, 2—Sudden, 1—Dropsy in the Chest, 1—Influenza, 1. City Poor, 3.

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"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1825.

No. 39.

OBSERVATIONS.

AN ADDRESS,

DELIVERED AT THE ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT OF THE
BERKSHIRE MEDICAL INSTITUTION, DEC. 23, 1824,

By RUFUS WILLIAM BAILEY, A. M. Pastor of the Congregational Church in Pittsfield.

We read this production with a design to review it, but found that in order to do justice to the address and to our readers, it would be necessary to make extracts too copious for that department of our paper. We are told we must not have more than three columns for a review, and we ought not to complain, since that is about a quarter part of the whole paper. Now we cannot get along with the piece before us without giving twice that quantity to our readers, and have therefore concluded to reprint the whole address, feeling assured that we can present nothing to the medical public which will be read with more interest, be more universally admired, or more generally useful. And now to the work itself:—

The interest which every community has in her professional men, is commensurate with the extensive influence they exert, and the immense responsibilities under which they act. Individual interest of property, life and principle, are very much committed to the advice and supervision of the Lawyer, the Physician and Divine.—Every wise government will, therefore, exercise a watchful eye over the interests of learning, and every intelligent community will regard with jealousy the manner in which professional men are prepared and presented for their confidence and patronage. The most ignorant man goes to his lawyer, with questions involving all his interests of property, and commits their disposal to the hands of one, whom he supposes capable of counselling in wisdom. Here, too, the widow and the orphan bring their cause, and look for defence and protection. But, if it be important that the lawyer be a man of wisdom and of principle, how much more the physician and the divine, to whom are entrusted more eventful interests, affecting life and salvation.

The importance of a systematic education, suited to each profession, has long been felt, and the good sense of the community has begun to give a decided preference to educated men. Our Colleges of Law, of Theology, and of Medicine, begin to compare in their extent and privileges, with those of Science and Literature; and a formality and system are observed in introducing gentlemen into these professions, as critical and exact, at least, as that by which men are prepared for the less responsible occupations of life. No friend to human happiness can regard these subjects but with the deepest interest.

To ensure success in business, it is not now enough that a man announces himself in the profession, and offers his services. It is not enough that he come out with his diploma, and ordinary academic honours. The public has begun to discriminate, on the ground of substantial merit, of real knowledge, of practical aptness; and candidates for professional patronage have learnt to prepare for a reception in society, adapted to their substantial claims.

Professional eminence has, of course, become the motto of every young man, who aspires to respectability or success. But professional eminence may be ephemeral. An enlightened public will demand that that eminence be built on a solid basis, on substantial character, on something above and beyond mere professional and technical knowledge.

I cannot, then, better meet the demands of this occasion, than in an attempt to trace and define the characteristics of true greatness in man; together with the points of character important and essential to professional eminence.

While we shall not undertake to deny, that nature has made a difference in the original power and constitution of mind, it is obvious that the intellectual, as well as moral character, is formed and influenced vastly by education. To attain the highest standard, then, of our moral and intellectual dignity, is an object calculated to awaken the most strenuous effort; and since there is no worthy and ennobling quality but may find footing, and be cultivated in every mind, the exhibition of those principles, on which the foundation of every thing valuable in character is laid, and the means of promoting them, become an object worthy the attention of all. The human mind is capable of putting forth efforts of a prodigious power, and with the aid of means subject to its control, of producing astonishing results. Some men, by seizing, combining, and exerting the happier powers of mind, have seemed to rise beyond ordinary distinctions, and we have looked upon them as elevated above us, by some rich and rare endowment of nature;—when, if we analyze their characters, we may find their pre-eminence has often proceeded, not so much from any original distinction of mind, as from the careful cultivation and prominent exhibition of certain properties, which are common to all.

Characters, who have commanded the most lasting admiration, have usually regarded with comparative indifference the means of external promotion, and have risen on our esteem rather by the sublime creation of some commanding intellectual powers, than the mere influence of adventitious causes.

Among those traits which confer greatness and command distinction, may be ranked as a leading feature, independence of mind. Not that independence which acknowledges no law, and exercises no discretion; but I mean that fearless hardihood, that disregard to consequences, which leads the mind to form its opinions and regulate its conduct by some great and unyielding principles, deliberately taken, well established, and uninfluenced by the apprehension of opposition or applause. By this I mean, a mind acting on its own responsibility, and possessing within itself a rule of action, not liable to the influence of caprice or circumstance; a mind which makes its own investigations, passes its own judgments, and regulates its own decisions, acting by its own energies on subjects presented to its examination, and borrowing no final sanction from the opinions or influence of others. It cringes to no footstool, surrenders its judgments to no human de-

cisions, and seeks no promotion but in the assertion of its own principles.

A true independence of mind is founded in principle, and consequently appears in all its investigations as well as actions. It is exerted at home in examining and choosing as well as bodied forth in its public efforts. It elevates the mind above a selfish or interested policy, and directs it to a course of efficient action in the rejection, not only of the authority of others, but of its own prepossessions, desires, and pride of opinion. Such an independence affects no singularity, and as readily coincides with others in what is right, as differs from them in what is wrong. There is a popular independence, much to be deprecated, which shows itself only in a contempt of the opinions of others, and treats with rudeness every thing not its own. It originates in the meanest pride, is actuated by the most selfish views, is dependent on the most capricious and local circumstances, and certainly shows itself in the most grovelling character. Nothing is approved by it which brings merit to another; nothing can proceed, which does not in some way subserve its own selfish interests. From such a mind, no elevated views can originate, no liberal plans proceed, no disinterested efforts show themselves. Such an independence contemplates no common interest, and of course consecrates no talent, with which it may be connected, to the public service. It is not the independence which in the language of Horace, inspires the patriot with delight, as well as crowns him with honour, when he falls for his country, and prompts to a fearless discharge of duty, whether it lead to glory or death.

The exercise and display of a dignified independence, requires a mind elevated above a mere sordid or selfish interest. It must look with a degree of unconcern on the consequences which will result to itself as well as to others, that the independence of its decisions may, when necessary, be elevated beyond the dependence of its circumstances. The man who cannot take this stand, can never decide by the rule of principle, but will always be influenced by the contingent circumstances of a personal interest. In reference to this species of independence, Shakspeare has said—

"Blessed are those,
Whose blood and judgment are so well commingled,
That they are not a pipe for fortune's finger
To sound what stop she please."

And in another connection, he has well expressed the operations of this lofty spirit, although in a language less adapted to common life, than we should choose to select, when he said—

"His nature is too noble for the world.
He would not flatter Neptune for his trident,
Nor Jove for his power to thunder."

(To be continued.)

NYMPHÆA NELUMBO.

This interesting plant, heretofore thought peculiar to Tartary and China, grows plentifully in the marshes of the Potomac, subject to be overflowed by its tides: it will soon blow and at-

ford the lovers of fine flowers an opportunity of indulgence in refined botanic taste. The root is perennial, about six inches long, and medicinal in diet. Its leaves are as large as a modern Leghorn bonnet, round and full of veins; the stem which supports the flower on its summit rises some feet above the surface of the water, and bears a magnificent flower the size of a saucer, of a beautiful orange colour. This flower, the pride of the vegetable kingdom, (at its birth, neighboring aquatic plants rejoiced, the winds became calm, the waters ceased to purl, all nature smiled, and it coloured with the blushes of youthful modesty,) seems as though it worships the sun—it follows his diurnal course, and keeps its superb face to his—disc to disc—and as he glides beneath the western horizon, is agitated seemingly with reverential respect to his departed lustre; at this time the leaves are agitated with sympathetic feelings, and wrap themselves into inextricable windings. During the night, the flower retraces its diurnal steps, to meet, in the morning, the rising splendor of its worship with renovated energies of delight: and now the leaves become extricated from this knot of woe, and seem to join in the felicitation, their upper surface glistening with limpid drops—shall I say tears of joy?

The seeds, contained in a pericarpium, vary in numbers, from twenty to thirty, which are the size of a chinquopin, and afford nourishment to hogs, beavers, wild geese, swans, and wild ducks. The delicious flavor of the white-back, (anas penelope,) is derived from these seeds. The Chinese use the root as food, and as an ingredient in their celebrated liquor of immortality. In the last edition of Parkinson's Herbal, published in London, Anno 1640, he mentions a starch made of the roots, which beautifies the skin of ladies, and keeps it free from eruptions, sunburns, and freckles; the starch is mixed with new milk, and the skin washed with it. It is, he says, a safe and effectual cosmetic.—*Nat. Intell.*

PERSEVERANCE

ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR YOUNG PHYSICIANS.

We have often wondered that more young men are not entirely discouraged by the difficulties which beset them on commencing the practice of the difficult, arduous, and responsible profession of medicine;—a thousand circumstances which appear but trifling in themselves, exert such a powerful influence on the character and standing of the physician.

To excel in the practice of medicine, it is in the first place necessary that the mind should be clear and discriminating, and that the disposition and natural cast of character should be amiable, as well as alive to all the sympathies which the frailties of human nature so frequently require. Although much of the success of any business depends on a sound judgment, and although an accomplished education may do much towards developing the strong energies of the mind, yet there are men who have become conspicuous for their usefulness who have scarcely known the first principles of the language they speak—and for this preeminence they are indebted, greatly to be sure to the possession of a natural endowment called judgment, but still more to patience and perseverance.

To no class of persons in the world is the following advice of celebrated the Macklin to his son, more applicable, than to young practitioners of medicine. "I have

often told you," said he "that every man must be the maker or marrer of his own fortune. I repeat the doctrine; he who depends upon incessant industry and integrity, depends upon patrons of the noblest and most exalted kind; they are the creatures of fortune and fame, the founders of families, and never can disappoint or desert you. They control all human dealings, and turn even vicissitudes of an unfortunate tendency to a contrary nature. You have genius, you have learning, you have industry at times, but you want perseverance; without it you can do nothing. I bid you bear this motto in your mind constantly—PERSEVERE."

PATENT LANCET.

Every day brings something new before our eyes.—The genius of our mechanics has been directed not only towards imitation burr-stones, circular saws, and shingled turnpikes, but an inventive help-mate of the faculty has been puzzling his cerebral fountain to produce a new constructed lancet, and although it goes neither by steam or crank, it has already been most marvelously praised by those who never used it, and for aught we know is destined ere long to be extensively sold, though we will venture to predict that it will never be extensively used. We acknowledge that we have never been presented by the inventor with one of these prodigious phlebotomizers, and, not therefore laboring under the bewitching influence of a bribe, there is every reason for our describing the thing in question with strict reference to its true merits. It is in many respects similar to the common spring lancet, and its chief peculiarity is, that the blade comes out from the end, and instead of describing an arc of a circle, imitates in its movement that in which the blade of a common thumb lancet is directed by the operator. During its motion the surgeon has no command over it, and we should not wish to be accountable for the wounded arteries, after a sweep by this sly operation; nor do we feel at all warranted in recommending such a dangerous instrument to the fingers of an inexperienced physician, or at all inclined to relinquish the opinion that the steady hand of an expert surgeon requires no such mechanical flummery. The habit of bleeding with thumb lancets is the most philosophical and safe, and although a thrombus and an occasional ecchymosis may make one lament the evils of a dull tool, the danger is far less considerable than that which attends the introduction of blindfolded instruments.

A few weeks ago, Mr Williams, the inventor of the machine in question, had the politeness to gratify and amuse a large concourse of medical gentlemen at the hospital, with an exhibition of his wonder-working instrument; indeed it was peculiarly gratifying, for unlike most surgical experiments, the operation was repeated several times, and no life endangered, and what is more, from some cause or other *not a drop of blood trickled from the vein which was attacked!*

Patent trusses, patent teeth instruments, patent pills, and patent lancets, are in our opinion all of a piece;—and when medical men countenance and even patronize such useless efforts of human ingenuity, they encourage artizans, who might be better employed, to labor entirely in vain. What is there in this country that does not go by patent? We were lately acquainted with a gentleman who wore a patent hat, bought patent boots with cork soles, and daily besmeared his toes with Conway's patent corn-plaster; not satisfied with this, he crawled into a patent doc-skin shirt, and kept up his small-clothes with patent suspenders; kept his chopped hands warm by patent spring-back gloves,

and finally, falling sick of a fever, took forty dollars' worth of patent physic from a patent doctor, and, after languishing awhile on one of Jenckes' patent elevating bedsteads, he died—as all patent things generally do—prematurely, was placed in a patent cedar wood coffin, borne on a patent swing hearse, to a patent air-tight tomb, where he now lies—a striking emblem of the numerous inventions which claim the protection of our American patent laws.

EVILS OF TIGHT LACING.

If intemperance, that vice which destroys the morals and brings ruin upon so many families, be almost peculiar to men, women are chargeable with a fault, which from its consequences to them and to their children, is hardly less to be deplored. There was a time—it was in the days of our respected grandmothers—when the frame of the fair was unconfined by whale-bone and bodice, their minds untainted by the mania for suffocating themselves with stay-tape and buckram, and a long life of health and beauty richly compensated the wealthy and the wise for their wisdom and independence. But alas! those halcyon days we fear have departed forever, and but few beauties are now found for adoration and love, but such as resemble the baked monks of St Bernard. Palpitations of the heart, from other causes than love; short breathing without amorous sighs; consumptions without colds; ricketty children without attention, and funerals without number, are the daily results of the prevailing habit of following the milliner's contracted patterns, and bowing at the shrine of fashion. The cook braces her waist with a leathern strap, and the chamber-maid wears a busk to be genteel: the latter apes the manners of her mistress' daughters, whose mother girts them up in brocaded stomachers to keep them in shape; and madam wears all sorts of anti-respiratory machinery, for the sake of being in fashion.

The degree of ill health, bodily distortion, and untimely death among females, solely originating in tight lacing, is incalculable; and still the custom is pursued with the most unaccountable pertinacity; but when revolving fashion and the good sense of that most interesting portion of society, begin to consult propriety and bodily ease, young women may entertain hopes they cannot now indulge, of living to a good old age, bringing up a family of healthy children, and being blest with "angels' visits" from their physicians.

MEDICAL LITERATURE OF OHIO.

Notwithstanding the free correspondence which we enjoy with professional men in the various parts of Ohio, it is with extreme difficulty that any correct information can be gathered concerning the condition of medicine in that industrious and progressively important state.—There appears to be a State Society, and many District or County Societies subordinately connected with it; but we are strongly inclined to believe that the Cincinnati branch is the only one which really deserves applause, and the only one too which does credit to the parent association.

There are many accomplished physicians in Ohio, who have been principally educated in the eastern states, and who will yet give lustre to the profession, and do honour to their almæ matres. There is no medical publication issued in the state, and hence no medium for communicating that kind of practical intelligence, which is so essentially necessary to the faculty, and the means of conveying which should call forth the encouragement of people in every country: still, howev-

er, we have a hope that a few revolving years will bring something of that nature into existence, and that a spirit of emulation will be manifested to reciprocate the favours of their medical friends at a distance, and contribute the results of their experience for the mutual benefit of themselves, their friends and humanity. Ohio is still young, and her medical men have been obliged to stem the current of prejudice, ignorance, and the various embarrassments peculiar to the a newly settled country; and when these barriers to the advancement of science have been thoroughly overcome, we shall expect an exhibition of those talents for research which they possess in an eminent degree.

The Medical College of Ohio, located in Cincinnati, the only School of Medicine in the commonwealth, is also in its infancy; but *infancy* is no crime, and we will venture to predict that this institution is destined to shine with increasing splendor, and diffuse light and science among a race of people who will be proud to cherish the increasing reputation of their public seminaries of learning, and grant every indulgence and every aid within the gift of a high-minded legislature.—We have the honour of a personal knowledge of a few of the professors of this College, and we should do violence to our feelings in neglecting to mention the names of Drs Smith and Cobb, who were educated in this city, and who have the most perfect confidence, and the kindest wishes for their success, of every gentleman who has the pleasure of their acquaintance.

SMALL-POX.

We have no patience with, and little pity for any one who, at this period of the world, is afflicted with small-pox. There is no fact more true, or more universally known, than that the simple process of vaccination is a sure and unfailing preventive of that loathsome and fatal malady. It is as certain as that the sun rises in the morning and sets in the evening, and the external and internal senses must be as depraved to deny the one as the other. There is no more excuse in our days, for a man's dying of small-pox, than for his deliberately suffering himself to be frozen to death in this land of wood, coal, and comfort:—the one is as much suicide as the other.

SCARLATINA,

HOW DISTINGUISHED FROM RUBEOLA.

The scarlet-fever sometimes resembles the measles so exactly as not to be easily distinguishable, though this is a matter of great importance, because the manner of cure in the two diseases is extremely different. The redness of the scarlet-fever is more equally diffused than in the measles, and is not, as in the latter, in distinct spots with the natural colour of the skin interposed. In the measles, also, the eruption rises more above the skin, and occasions a roughness to the touch, which is hardly observable in the scarlet-fever, except a very little roughness sometimes on the arms. In the scarlet-fever there is seldom a severe cough; the eyes do not water much, and the eye-lids are not red and swollen; all which rarely fail to attend the measles. The time of the eruption is likewise different, for it appears in the scarlet-fever both in the face and arms on the second day; but in the measles it begins only about the third day to be visible on the chin and breast, and does not come to the arms and hands till the fourth or fifth day.

DISEASE OF THE TONGUE.

"Where no tale bearer is, strife ceaseth."
"First weed thine own garden."

The disease of the tongue stands foremost on the list of human maladies—it is mischievous, contagious, inveterate, and, in most cases, incurable. To prescribe for it effectually is acknowledged to be beyond the skill of the Lay-Doctor. All he attempts is to point out its symptoms, describe its nature and virulence, and administer some alleviating remedies. If his treatment shall in any degree prevent the disorder from becoming epidemic or stay the progress of this pestilence that "walketh in darkness," the time spent will not be lost.

The patient usually exhibits superior marks of sanctity, and a high regard for morality and virtue. Every deviation from strict rules of moral rectitude in others is noticed with the utmost abhorrence and detestation. To discover and hunt down the foibles of his neighbors, is his favorite employment. He travels from house to house and from one social circle to another in search of his victims. As the means are immaterial, so the object can be obtained, whether from the gossiping circle, the alms-house, or the greasy servant in the kitchen—the filthy tale is received, it is devoured, and swallowed with equal eagerness.

The disease now seizes the body; restless and uneasy, the patient goes out and takes his range with all the fury of canine madness. At every corner the tale is told, repeated, enlarged, and embellished; at every recital the unhappy victim is pitied, censured, and detested. "What an unfortunate affair! Who could have thought it? What a distressed family! Why do they make such a secret of it? They ought to turn such a creature out of doors! I don't see how people can have him in their family;" and then darts out to repeat the tale to the neighbors, with additions. Envy is in this stage the disease of contempt. Tongues irritated by the loathsome disorder, become restless and uneasy. Some are anxious by repeating the tale to enlarge the circle of scandal, nor is the circulation stopped until some new calumny furnishes fresh aliment for the disorder. No matter if the reputation of individuals is destroyed, and the domestic happiness of families forever ruined. "The public good," he repeats, "requires that vice should be detected and exposed." The poetic fable of rumour with her thousand tongues is but a personification of this disease in its epidemic state.

A perfect cure is hopeless, unless, as in the case of inveterate cancers, you resort to the knife. All that can be done, is to prescribe such a regimen as will operate as a preventive. Under the Jewish law, lepers were banished without the camp, because the disease was loathsome and contagious. In like manner I would adopt a course of treatment equally efficacious—avoid the company of slanderers and tale bearers. Put them in covert, or, in other words, say as little to them as possible on any subject, and not a word on one which involves the character or conduct of others. In this way, by depriving the disorder of its customary nourishment, you may mitigate its most alarming symptoms. Discountenance every tale of calumny, and above all never repeat it yourself—trust me, you have follies, vices, and disorders enough to censure, correct, and cure at home, without prying into the con-

cerns of your neighbors. You have a reputation equally delicate with theirs. Adopt a rigid scrutiny into your own conduct, and you will find little time to look abroad. Instead of searching for and plucking weeds from your neighbor's lot, in the language of my motto, "weed thine own garden."

The most sensible motive to abate the passions is death. The tomb is the best lesson of morality. Study avarice in the coffin of the miser; the man who accumulated possessions and wealth—see a few square inches of earth contain him! Study ambition at the grave of the enterprising,—see his noble designs, his extensive projects, his boundless expeditions, sunk in the gulf of human destruction. Approach the tomb of the proud man, and there investigate his pride: behold the mouth that pronounced lofty expressions, condemned to eternal silence; the piercing eye that convulsed the world, obscured in midnight gloom; the formidable arm that disturbed the destinies of mankind, without motion or life. Go to the tomb of the nobleman, and there study equality: behold! his magnificent titles, his flattering inscriptions, are all gone, or going to be lost in the same obscurity and dust.

DISCOVERY OF GALVANISM.

The discovery of the effects of electricity on animals, took place from something like an accident. The wife of Galvani, then professor of anatomy in the University of Bologna, being in a declining state of health, employed as a restorative, according to the custom of the country, a soup made of frogs. A number of these animals, ready skinned for the purpose of cooking, were lying—with that comfortable negligence common to both French and Italians, which allows them without repugnance to do every thing in every place that is at the moment most expedient—in the professor's laboratory, near an electrical machine, it being probably the intention of the lady to cook them there. While the machine was in action, an attendant happened to touch with the point of the scalpel the crural nerve of one of the frogs, that was not far from the prime conductor, when the limbs were instantly thrown into convulsions. This experiment was performed in the absence of the professor, but it was noticed by the lady, who was much struck by the appearance, and communicated it to her husband. He repeated the experiment, varied it in different ways, and perceived that the convulsions only took place when a spark was drawn from the prime conductor, while the nerve was at the same time touched with a substance which was a conductor of electricity.

TO DETECT ADULTERATION IN BREAD.

The following simple experiment to ascertain whether bread be made of proper materials, is within the reach of every one;—Heat a knife, and plunge it into the loaf. If the blade, when drawn out, appear bright, and not incrustated with a white chalky substance, it is a proof that it is free from some of the pernicious ingredients generally used by bakers in the adulteration of bread.

WASH-LEATHER UNDER WAISTCOATS.

In several instances, the best effects have occurred from wearing *washing leather* over flannel, as a preservative against the consequences of those exposures to which all men are more or

less liable. A waistcoat of this material will, in many cases, supersede the necessity of, and prove a more effective barrier against cold, than a great coat, and often even after the establishment of a rheumatism which refuses to give way before the most powerful medicine, clothing the parts affected with leather, will almost immediately effect an easy cure.

INTELLIGENCE.

PHENOMENON.—At Munich, on the 14th Nov. a very curious phenomenon appeared between noon and one o'clock. The Alps, covered with snow, seemed to have drawn near to Munich, and presented an imposing curtain, several parts of which were completely illuminated. Valleys and crests seemed perfectly distinguishable, but the summits appeared as though on fire. Long lambent flames seemed to move about them, and disappear in the air. Professor Griithusen thought that by means of his telescope he could discover that the appearances were occasioned by an impetuous wind, which carried the snow of the Alps to an elevation of eight thousand feet into the air.

SOMETHING NEW.—A man has lately made his appearance in Richmond, who announces his intention of giving exhibitions once a week in a new discovery which he has made, viz. that of resuscitating drowned persons. In one of his late exhibitions he had the misfortune to lose his servant, upon whom he practised his invention, by accidentally drowning him a little *too much*. He now gives notice that he wishes to hire by the year "any healthy, well behaved, *white* man or woman," who is willing to be drowned once a week, for good wages. He says, "none need apply without good recommendations." Those who can produce the best testimonials that they were *born to be hanged*, to make good an old proverb, would be the fittest subjects.—*Salem Gazette*.

A NEW OPENING MEDICINE!—One of the keepers of a park situated not a hundred miles from Tyburn-turnpike, (Eng.) having a cow that was ill from the effects of the milk fever, humanely drenched her with a large live eel, under the impression that this slippery agent would speedily thread the intricacies of her intestine labyrinth, and forthwith set all to rights! On the introduction of this unwelcome inmate, the poor cow kept snorting, writhing, licking, and rubbing her sides; pawing and trampling with her feet; moaning and using every other means in her power to demonstrate the inconvenience she felt from the intruder, till at last she happily got rid of him, by the operation for which he had been introduced. This singular instance of cow-leechery has already afforded much mirth in the Smithfield cattle-market.

LORD BYRON.—In one of his familiar letters from Greece to John Murray, Esq. his lordship writes thus:—"On Sunday (the 15th, I believe) I had a strong and sudden convulsive attack which left me speechless, though not motionless, for some strong men could not hold me; but whether it was epilepsy, catalepsy, cachexy, apoplexy, or what other exy or epsy, the doctors have not decided, or whether it was spasmodic, or nervous, &c. but it was very unpleasant, and nearly carried me off, and all that. On Monday they put leeches to my temples, no difficult matter, but the blood could not be stopped till eleven at night, (they had gone too near the temporal artery for my temporal safety,) and neither styptic nor caustic would cauterize the orifice till after a hundred attempts.

HYDROFUGE.—The Paris Journal des Debats, of the 16th of November, contains an account of a new substance prepared there, called *Hydrofuge*, which preserves from humidity all objects to which it is applied. "This discovery," says that paper, "for which the author has obtained a patent, appears to be of great importance. The evils produced by humidity are well known. Some of the boxes and other parts of one of the principal theatres have been hydrofuged: with the aid of this substance, all new buildings may be immediately occupied. It may be applied to any thing, and renders the contact of water harmless. It may be used

upon any material; stock, brick, plaster, glass, paper, the metals, &c. Any colour may be given to it. The experiments related in the Journal of Economical Sciences, leave no doubt of its efficacy."

POLISHING WOOD.—The Parisians have introduced an entirely new mode of polishing, which is called *plaquey*, and is to wood precisely what plating is to metal. Water may be spilled on it without staining, and it will resist scratching in the same degree with marble. The receipt for making it is as follows:—To one pint of spirits of wine, add half an ounce of gum shellac, half an ounce gum lac, half an ounce gum sandrick; placing it over a gentle heat, frequently agitating it until the gums are dissolved—when it is fit for use.—Make a roller of list, put a little of the polish upon it, and cover that with a soft linen rag, which must be slightly touched with cold drawn linseed oil. Rub them in the wood in a circular direction, not covering too large a space at a time till the pores of the wood are sufficiently filled up. After this, rub in the same manner, spirits of wine, with a small portion of the polish added to it, and a most brilliant polish will be produced. If the outside has been previously polished with wax, it will be necessary to clean it off with glass paper.

SPORT OF NATURE.—We copy the following curious article from the West Chester (Penn.) Record:—"An odd thing that happened in this county, is exciting considerable conversation. A cat was killed in Charlestown township, and the skin sold at the store of Mr A. Woodman, in Upper Merion, Montgomery county. The skin was a pure white, except a black spot in the middle, and when it was stretched and nailed up to dry, it was instantly remarked that the black spot presented a beautiful female profile, the hair turned up on the back of the head, and secured by a comb; where the ear would come white hairs were intermingled, so as to render that member distinct. It is said that the clear and deep colours—the well marked and fine outline, render it as pretty as it is remarkable, and several of the beaux have found a real or fancied resemblance to two or three of the handsomest girls in Charlestown and Merion. Should this natural curiosity be sent to Mr Peale, as it is talked of, he might expect a crowd to see the likeness of a Schuylkill beauty.

COPPER AND AMMONIA.—If to a solution of copper in nitric acid, pure ammonia be added to the point of saturation, and the whole suffered to rest for twenty-four hours, a copious precipitate will be formed of beautiful purple crystal. By placing a few grains on a hot iron they will fuse, swell, and explode like unrefined gunpowder, with a dense vapor, but without flame.—The vapor partakes of the odour of nitrous and ammoniacal gases. *Query.* Is the *nitro ammoniacet* of copper a proper term for this compound?

EVAPORATION MODIFIED BY PRESSURE.—M. Caignard de la Tour has ascertained, by experiments which are recorded in the "Annales de Chimie," that alcohol of specific gravity 837, is capable by the application of heat of about 405 deg. of Fahrenheit, of being wholly converted into vapours, in a space less than twice its original bulk; its elastic force balancing at the time about 37-12 atmospheres; and water, at a temperature near to that of melting zinc, or 705 deg. Fahrenheit, becomes wholly vapour, in a space nearly equal to four times its former bulk.

NEW-YORK EYE INFIRMARY.—It appears from the fourth annual report of this excellent institution, that 932 patients have been under care during the past year, and of this number 749 have been cured; 22 relieved; 9 proved incurable; 6 refused to submit to the treatment prescribed; and one died of another disorder. In 64 the results could not be ascertained, and 81 patients remain in attendance. Since the foundation of the infirmary, three thousand three hundred and fifty-five patients have been under the care of its surgeons.

HANGING BY WAY OF EXPERIMENT.—Anthony Rawlings, a fine lad about 14 years of age, having witnessed the execution of Mr Fauntleroy, and being desirous of knowing "whether the sensation of hanging was great," made an experiment upon himself, which proved successful! When cut down, he was quite dead,

SUDDEN DEATHS.—During the last month, and the few days past of the present, a great mortality has prevailed among old persons, arising probably from the rapid transitions of the weather from heat to cold, and from the unusual degree of dampness which has at different times pervaded the atmosphere. One very striking fact in connection with this subject, deserves to be mentioned;—There were ten deaths during four days ending on the 2d inst. among *old* persons, the united ages of whom were 755 years—making an average of 75 1-2 years to each individual. The deaths, during the month of Jan. are supposed to exceed the general average of deaths during the summer months, and January is usually a healthy month.—*Eve. Gaz.*

LYCEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.—The first part of the first volume of the Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New-York, has been completed, and the first number of the second part is in press. The labors of this society are becoming daily more and more interesting.

SICKNESS AT PORT AU PRINCE.—It was very sickly at Port au Prince the latter end of December. There was more or less sickness among the crews of the American vessels in that port.—An epidemic disease has appeared at Napoli di Romania.

His Excellency Dr. WILLIAM EUSTIS, Governor and Commander in Chief of this Commonwealth, departed this life on Sunday morning, at seven o'clock, in the seventy-fifth year of his age. He has been in public life for half a century, commencing his career at Cambridge in 1775, as a surgeon in the American army. In 1787, he was appointed surgeon-general to Lincoln's forces, raised to suppress Shays' insurrection, and was surgeon, adviser and warrior during the campaign. Since the adoption of the Federal Constitution, he has been generally employed in public life. He has represented Boston in the Legislature of this Commonwealth for several years; then was sent to Congress from the district of Suffolk—has been Foreign Minister, Secretary at War, Representative of Norfolk, and has been twice elected to the office in which he died, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.—The heroes of the revolution are falling around us as the last leaves of the tree in the autumnal blast.—*Gazette*.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

Ending February 4; from the Health-Office Returns.

January 28.—Eleanor Davis, 75. 29th.—Mary Hilt, 82; Hanney Haskell, 35; — Rix; — Bliss; Joshua Simonds, 45; — Kelly; James Hausler, 6; Robert Roberts, 53. 30th.—Hepzibah Holt, 68; William H. Rice, 2; Thomas S. Winship, 3; Beria Lewis, 59; — Larabee. 31st.—Sarah Hemmenway, 76; Amasa Davis, 80; Charles C. Orne, 17 mo; Charles E. Waters, 1 mo; Sophia Estey, 20; Isaiah Faxon, 38; — Mansfield. February 1.—Mary Ann R. Cunningham, 42; Joanna P. Kimball, 21; Abigail Hayden, 60; Sarah C. Taylor, 42; Joseph Eaton, 75; John Low, 60; Sukey Hall, 70; Lucy Lovis, 28; Abigail Howe, 85. 2d.—Elizabeth White, 75; Elizabeth Cazneau, 92; Jedediah Lincoln, 8; Rebecca Kettell, 77. 3d.—Abigail Oliver, 1 month; Sarah Bryant; Elizabeth H. Furness, 60; William Smith, 40. 4th.—James Perry; Nancy Hooper, 60; Elizabeth Ellis, 3 mo.

Croup, 2—Old age, 4—Brain Fever, 2—Influenza, 1—Fits, 2—Apoplexy, 1—Consumption, 7—Lung Fever, 3—Debility, 2—Stillborn, 4—Dropsy, 1—Bilious Fever, 1—Asthma, 1—Cancer, 1—Paralysis, 1—Infantile, 1—Bilious Colic, 1—Typhus Fever, 1.

Wanted,

AN active, capable boy, 14 or 15 years of age, as an apprentice to the Printing business. One from the country would be preferred. Apply at this office. Feb. 8.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER :

Published weekly, at two dollars a year, in advance. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

OBSERVATIONS.

AN ADDRESS,

DELIVERED AT THE ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT OF THE
BERKSHIRE MEDICAL INSTITUTION, DEC. 23, 1824,
By RUFUS WILLIAM BAILEY, A. M. Pastor of the Con-
gregational Church in Pittsfield.

(Continued from page 157.)

Nearly connected with this independence of mind, and perhaps always attending it, is decision of character. Although so intimately allied as never perhaps to appear alone, they are entitled to a distinction, since the former relates properly to the operations of the mind in forming its opinions, the latter to the prompt action of the mind in passing and executing its judgment. The grand point of superiority in such a mind is, that it is always in action, and thereby awakens, disciplines, and shows forth its most efficient powers. Such a man rises on himself, and looking down all the misgivings and relents of natural sloth, brings all his energies to bear upon his object, overcomes difficulties which seemed insuperable, and accomplishes all that lies within the compass of human power. This was a striking feature in the character of Napoleon, and raised him to an eminence above ordinary great men. No one can contemplate this man in his splendid career, without a degree of astonishment. Yet we shall find much of that which constituted the greatness, and contributed to the exaltation of the character he sustained, was his decision. With him it was only to look and decide—to decide and to act. Indeed, action is necessarily implied in decision. Without it, decision is an empty sound. The energies of his mind spent all their force in the active prosecution of his object, and therefore accomplished what was possible. There is something in this cast of mind which commands our admiration, because it is efficient. It is admired even in Napoleon, although exerted so fatally to human happiness.

It was his decision which formed much of Cæsar's greatness. It was certainly this which, while it lengthened the period, heightened the brilliancy of his career. It was this which enabled him to accomplish so much. It concentrated his energies in action, and thereby rendered him efficient. Had Cæsar neglected to pursue this promptness of decision, and indulged the natural sensibilities he had, in the fond attractions of Cornelia or Cleopatra, instead of the preeminence he holds among the Cæsars, he might have been known only as a name in the Julian family,—*"fortisque Gyas, fortisque Cleanthus."*

We are not to conclude that such minds are rare, because they are so seldom developed. We may doubtless find among us, minds like Julius Cæsar's, capable of the most extensive influence and effect, for want of decision in council, and energy in action, like splendid palaces, standing desolate, and without an inhabitant. And we can hardly be more deeply impressed with the extent and influence of human depravity, nor feel a more melancholy regret, in viewing the desolations and miseries which attended the paths

of Cæsar and Napoleon, than we must feel in contemplating the ruins of some great and original mind, hampered by indecision, and prostrated by idleness, luxury or delay. If as christians, we must condemn the misguided mind, spending its energies in action, we cannot less pass our censures and regrets on the heaven-born intellect, which, although chastened and commended by the humblest professions of piety, spends all its energies in endless deliberations, and punctilious scruples, while the vigor of its powers is exhausted in the effort, and the time for successful action passes by forever. And while the former may often command our admiration, the latter will always beget our contempt.

Patience of suffering, the efficient virtue of a persevering mind, is necessary to secure the proper results from that independence and decision, which first led the mind to attempt and expect great things. As we proceed, the mind must be prepared, not only for prolonged exertion, but for the changes incident to every condition, and the varieties which must attend all continued effort. As in prosperity, the mind is apt to be elated with pride, so in adversity it sinks in discouragement. But we have seen minds rising above their conditions, struggling against misfortune with fortitude, and preserving their own command in the midst of embarrassment. The same spirit which will sustain a man under misfortune, will enable him to provide with decision for the exigency of cases in an unexpected derangement of his plans. If, however, his imagination overpower his reason, if the dread of disgrace, of self denial, of suffering, and of losses, dwells with appalling apprehension on his mind, he soon sinks under the effect, and gives himself over to despair. But the mind which looks with unconcern on misfortune, will rise above distraction, exert every power in the time of danger or of disappointment, and retain in all events its dignity, although reduced to a low condition. For the development of this trait of mental greatness, the philosophy of the stoics was admirably suited. Contempt of danger, and patience of suffering, formed a prominent part of their virtue. Roman greatness was built much on this feature of mind. It was associated with all their religious hopes, and was indispensably requisite to the attainment of political honours. It was cherished by all their forms of education, and entered into all the discipline of their youth. Eminent examples of this trait of character, are found among barbarous and savage nations, where it is the only virtue, and the only religion they know. Hold out to man the purchase of heaven by patience in suffering, and self denial without faith, repentance, and submission to the will of God, and there would be more stoics than there are now christians.—For such a crown, great exertions will develop great powers of mind, so long as the moral man is left in his own pollutions; and therefore it is, probably, that the same motives which lead to the endurance of hardships in other prospects of gain, command often of the rudest and most vicious men, great patience in suffering, when that

suffering is contemplated as a religious sacrifice, and the foundation for favor.

This same patience is necessary to every valuable attainment. The regular student, indeed, finds satisfaction sufficient in the labor of acquisition; yet it must be allowed that this labor is not congenial to his natural sloth, and is originally a subject of self denial, and formed to a habit by perseverance. Whatever pride and satisfaction there may be, therefore, in the labor of acquisition, a patience in suffering is necessary to the production of any great and valuable effect. And this may account for the fact, that with so many great, original, and delicate minds, we are favored with so few labored and finished productions in literature, science, or the arts.

Much is said of genius as a substitute for the drudgery of investigation. But it is idle. Those who expect thus to support themselves, will soon find that light substances alone, can move in the elevation they affect; and those who look for their pleasure and instruction from such a source, will be disappointed. The student who gains a lasting professional reputation, must have exercised that patience which has ripened and extended to a habit of perseverance. A flash of wit may burst from a mere trifle, to show he has a mind:—but a steady blaze will require a constant supply of fuel, gathered from Academic groves and Parnassian summits. We may listen for once to the empty declaimer, because we admire nature's work. But we are disappointed and disgusted when we look again; for though nature still may claim our praise, no signs of human industry command our admiration; and where we expected to meet an intellectual display, there is only *"vox, et preterea nihil."* It is a patient and persevering industry, which has furnished our libraries, and smoothed our way in the paths of various learning, which our predecessors so laboriously trod. The jurist, who is sought after and confided in, is the man who has labored his cause through the ponderous and multiplied volumes of precedence, principle and evidence. The divine, who brightens and burns with increasing lustre, is one who has filled his lamp, and taken oil also in his vessel with his lamp; who has waked at midnight, while others have slept; who has labored in the fields of science, and stand at Siloam's fount, "fast by the oracles of God." The physician, who deserves well of the community and will finally possess their confidence, is he, who, while approaching the great lazaretto where lie his active labors, has studied his books, acquainted himself with the science of his profession, investigated the volume of nature, and learnt her laws; and who, when arrived at the theatre of his active duties, makes it well known, by his attention to business, where he may be found, who wakes easily at midnight, at the trembling tap and faltering voice of the agitated friend, is soon arrived at the sick bed, and bends with untiring assiduity over the anxious and eventful scene, where are soon to be decided the hopes, and fears, and prospects of an agonizing family.

To give the proper effect and direction to the powers we have, it is necessary the mind be so disciplined as to exercise the command of itself. Whenever passion obtains the command of reason, the man becomes the sport of the winds, and is ruined. It is in those exigencies of life, where we are most exposed to the influence of passion, that the most important interests are often at hazard. It is often in decisions where great consequences are pending, where the mind has hardly time to weigh all the important relations of the subject, where action is forced into the present moment, that the perfect collection, and full exercise of the mental powers is required, and where they are most readily disconcerted. It is then the mind appears great in self-possession, when surrounded by danger, and every thing to wake up its apprehensions; when the forebodings of evil appear in every thing around us, and the prospects of defeat are associated with the future. This interesting trait of character appears to eminent advantage under provocation. When tempted to sinful indulgence, a successful command of passion raises the man to a dignity in his own estimation, which is necessary to its proper exhibition to others. True greatness of character is often most clearly exhibited in little things. It is related, I think, of Sir Isaac Newton, that on returning to his study, after a short absence, he found his papers, containing the labored result of many years' painful investigation, scattered and burnt to ruins by his playful dog. The calm philosopher, perceiving the calamity, instead of beating the innocent animal, only replied—you little know, cur, the injury you have done me. Self command often appears to special advantage in seasons of personal danger. Cæsar put forth the efforts of a man rising above his fortunes, when he cried to the boatman just ready to cease from the oar, and yield himself to the rage of the element—"Ne time. Cæsarem vehis."

(To be continued.)

ON SNUFF-TAKING.

By DR KINGLAKE, of Taunton, Eng.

The practice of snuff-taking is, perhaps, the most baneful that popular custom and familiarity have sanctioned as innoxious and gratifying. It is scarcely conceivable to what an extent of misapprehension and fallacy, an authorized and an unsuspected habit may lead. It has rarely occurred to those who use snuff, even the most largely, that it is an agent possessing qualities that cannot fail to prove highly deleterious to the healthy tone and energy of the stomach.

Tobacco, of which snuff is the comminuted division or powder, is undeniably amongst the most powerful class of narcotic substances, and, were it to be taken into the stomach freely, it would exert an influence not less overwhelming and destructive than that which would arise from henbane, wolfsbane, deadly nightshade, hemlock, &c. In the whole tribe of narcotic vegetables, perhaps there is not one that would derange the healthy state of the stomach more deeply and seriously than tobacco.

Henbane, aconite, blue monkshood or wolfsbane, deadly night shade, dogs-mercury, thorn-apple, common hemlock, bug agaric, pepper agaric, hemlock dropwort, water hemlock, laurel, &c. are severally resorted to as powerful medicines, designed to fulfil curative indications

of extraordinary difficulty; but it never entered into the imagination of the most adventurous, to use either of these substances in the form and manner of snuff. When medicinally introduced into the stomach, it has been done in doses cautiously restricted, so as to prevent the possibility of any disastrous effect resulting from them.—Were they familiarly taken like powdered tobacco or snuff, the most pernicious consequences would probably arise from such hazardous practice.

Snuff-takers do not advert to the route into which the noxious article is forced by the act of strong inhalation through the nostrils. It is neither supposed nor intended to pass beyond the anterior cavities of the nose; instead of which, it is carried through its posterior openings, commonly into the gullet; from thence, it finds its way into the stomach, and occasionally a portion will be apt to escape under the epiglottis into the trachea. In either case, immediate and distant mischief of a very afflicting nature is likely to ensue.

The stomach can no more decompose powdered tobacco, so as to render it comparatively harmless, than it can deadly nightshade, hemlock, or any other vegetable poison. It must therefore first disorder its healthy function, inducing dyspeptic ailment, morbid sensibility, and of course an endless train of distempered nervous feelings. The direct influence of tobacco on the stomach is in a high degree enervating, by which that organ is incapacitated for a healthy secretion of the gastric fluid, and for exerting the vital energy that is requisite for performing its digestive function. Loss of appetite, distressing sickness, gastric oppression, præcordial anxiety, acetous fermentation, flatulent distention, and deathly languor, are amongst the direct effects of admitting snuff into the stomach. The more distant injury which this hurtful agent is likely to occasion, may be perceived in the various sympathetic disturbance which a disordered stomach awakens throughout the whole system.—What vital function can preserve its healthy state amidst such overwhelming affection of gastric excitability?

The detriment arising to the stomach in the first instance, and secondarily to the system at large, is most insidious. The evil is incessantly working its mischievous course, without being at all suspected. In each succeeding portion of powdered tobacco that is incautiously snuffed through the nostrils, additional occasion is given for fresh and increasing injury, until at length dyspepsia and various nervous sensations accrue, which are familiarly attributed to any cause rather than to the real one. To impeach a favorite indulgence—to charge with the cause of disease that which is held to be a harmless and gratifying excitement of the nasal cavities, would be regarded as wildly visionary, and wholly inadequate to such an effect. In this persuasion, the use of the noxious agent is habitually and fearlessly pursued, until its morbid effects become sufficiently manifest to awaken serious apprehension.

Were either of the narcotic substances that have been enumerated, to be prepared for use as snuff, by the addition of such attenuating and stimulating ingredients as would fit it for pleasingly exciting the nostrils, the admission of the narcotic agent in this insidious manner into the

stomach, would most likely very soon produce effects not dissimilar to those of tobacco. An article capable of operating on the living power of the stomach, like tobacco or any of the other active narcotics, cannot with safety be used as an inoffensive stimulant on a surface that has a direct and ready communication with the cavity of that organ, without incurring consequences of a very threatening nature. The magnitude of the mischief produced by this unknown or neglected cause, is often irreparable. Prostrated, agitated, and variously distempered nervous power, cannot be easily extricated and released from its almost paralysed disabilities. Direct remedies for such ailments are not at hand, the poison is without an adequate antidote, and this consideration should seasonably warn the amateurs, the proficients, and the veterans in a practice alike uncleanly and unhealthy, to desist from it before it shall have incurably distempered and disorganised the structural as well as functional integrity of the stomach.

Rigid, absolute, and uncompromising abstinence from the pernicious custom of taking snuff, is the only preventive remedy of the numerous and often irremediable evils attending the indefensible usage. It probably under no circumstances could prove beneficial, whilst its injurious effects are various and frequently most embarrassing. It occasionally distempers the healthy action of the mucous membrane of the nostrils, inducing excoriations, polypous excrescences, and even ill-conditioned sores, that may assume the irrestrainable extension and character of cancerous virulence.

Many instances have fallen under my notice, and more occur to my reflection, of but little short of mortal injury having accrued from a profuse and an incautiously violent mode of forcing snuff through the nostrils into the gullet and stomach. Morbid changes in the structure of the posterior fauces and in different portions of the œsophagus, occasioning diseased contraction of that tube, have been justly referable to the distempering influence of tobacco. The worst cases of indigestion and of mesenteric atrophy, have been reasonably supposed to have originated from excessive chewing and smoking as well as snuffing of tobacco, in which, a negative remedy has been found in the discontinuance of the practice.

There is much reason for believing that the ever-memorable Napoleon Bonaparte derived the cause of his protracted suffering and eventual death, from the large quantities of snuff which he lavishly but unconsciously carried into the stomach through the nostrils, by the habit of strong and unmeasured inspiration with which he used that destructive agent. The diseased appearances of the stomach on inspection after death, termed cancerous, were those of an highly inflamed, much thickened, and extensively ulcerated surface, such as were very likely to have been induced by the noxious influence of tobacco, almost incessantly supplied by the frequent, abundant, and forcible manner in which that illustrious personage was notoriously known to take that powdered article.

There can be no more valid reason assigned for persisting in the undeniably hurtful custom of taking snuff, than there could be for that of any other poison; and whoever will inconsiderately incur the imminent risk of occasioning irremediable and destructive mischief by so baleful a prac-

tice, will find no admissible excuse either in the prevalence of the custom, in its unobjected currency, or in the transient gratification and notional benefit attending its use.

If strongly exciting the mucous membrane of the nostrils can be supposed, from its proximity to the brain, to produce a beneficial effect on that organ, the purpose may be answered by substances not less pungent than tobacco, and without any of its deleterious qualities. The effluvia of ammonia in either a solid or liquid form, the aroma of pepper, ginger, or any other simple stimulant, mixed with either powdered chalk, liquorice, or cinnamon, in such proportion as would render the composition sufficiently powerful moderately to irritate, without excoriating the nasal membrane, would be an adequate substitute for what may be regarded as the harmless agency of tobacco, with a secure exemption from its pernicious influence. It is however not probable that the local excitement of the nostrils can ever prove salutary or advantageous, beyond the momentary gratification connected with the established habit of the practice; and as all unnecessary usages are rather nuisances than benefits, it would seem to be indispensably advisable to abstain from a custom that is unsightly in its appearance, preposterous in its observance, and in every conceivable view that can be taken of its effect, much more likely to become eventually injurious than useful.

As errhines, in sternutative intentions, various substances have been used for the purpose of exciting the minutely ramified expansion of the olfactory nerves on the mucous membrane of the nostrils. In cases of unyielding lethargy and comatose stupor, arising from cerebral oppression, and other states of distempered sensibility, nasal stimulants may beneficially cooperate with suitable depletion in restoring nervous depression to a condition of natural freedom and energy. The close vicinity of the nostrils to the brain, with the direct nervous communication subsisting between those surfaces and that organ, explains the possibility of its being powerfully affected by remedies capable of provoking the convulsive action of sneezing.

The most efficient of those medicinal substances are, asarabacca (*asarum europæum*), herb mastick (*teucrium marum*), white hellebore (*helleborus albus*), yellow subsulphate of quicksilver (*subsulphas hydrargyri flavus*). Small quantities of either of these articles conveyed up the nostrils in instances of lethargic or apoplectic insensibility, in protracted syncope, and suspended animation, may be advantageously employed; and in attempting to fulfil such an indication of relief the design is purely medicinal, having no affinity to snuffing tobacco, and of course furnishing no warrant for that fashionable but offensive and reprehensible practice. The unnecessary use of errhines would occasion an unhealthy afflux of fluids to the nostrils, which would be at least a source of annoyance, if not of positive ailment. But the recited errhines have no narcotic or any other quality like tobacco, by which serious injury may be extended to the stomach, and more or less directly to the whole nervous system. In the use of snuff, it is less the stimulant impression on the nostrils than the transmission of the exciting substance to the gullet and stomach, that is denounced as mischievous, and reprobated as inadmissible.

SEMIDECUSATION OF THE OPTIC NERVES.

In a letter to us from a distinguished philosopher in Germany, (says the Edinburgh Philosophical Journal) the following remarks occur:—"I do not understand how it happens that the labours of the Germans, and even of other nations, in comparative anatomy, are so little known in England. Many observations and opinions, which are considered as new in your country, have been long known to us in Germany. In proof of this I may mention, that, in the thirty-fourth number of the London Journal of Science, there is an extract from a memoir on the "*Semidecussion of the Optic Nerves*," in which the illustrious author, from a pathological appearance he observed, infers a partial crossing of the optic nerves, without appearing to know, not only that many authors, from similar grounds, have come to the same conclusions, but also, that this kind of crossing had been observed in the eye of the human species by Vicq d'Azyr, Caldani, the brothers Wentzel, and Chiasmon, and by G. R. Treviranus in the eye of the Simia Aygula. *Vide Verm. Schrifftin, von G. R. and L. C. Treviranus, Th. iii. p. 168.*"

STATISTICAL MEDICINE.

INFLUENCE OF VACCINATION UPON THE MORTALITY OF BERLIN.

M. Casper has published a long paper, containing many curious details relative to the above subject; but we can do no more, at present, than give the result of his investigations.

1. The small-pox formerly carried off from the 12th to the 10th of the population.
2. Formerly at Berlin, one out of twelve children born, died of the small-pox; now the deaths from the same cause are 1 in 116
3. The diseases of children are more common than before the introduction of vaccination, because the number of infants that survive is more considerable.
4. These diseases formerly destroyed 39 children out of every 100; now only 34 in the hundred die of these diseases, so that in the whole 51 children in 100 died formerly, and at present only 43.
5. Generally speaking, 1 inhabitant in 28 used to die annually; now there is only 1 death in 34.

EXAMINATION OF GOV. EUSTIS' BODY.

So far as we have been able to judge, from morbid changes, the disease of this distinguished individual, which put a period to his existence, was a *peripneumony*.—On raising the sternum, the left lung was perfectly healthy, but the right was found adhering to the pleura costalis, of a firm consistence on the upper and back part. The three lobes of which the right lung is composed, completely adhered together, forming a mass, hard to the feel, nearly of the firmness of liver, and the whole covered by a coating of coagulable lymph, one of the surest evidences of high local inflammation.

The heart was rather larger than usual, but it was chiefly interesting from the circumstance of finding the mitral valves considerably thickened on their edges, and ossified.

The liver was small, of the ordinary colour, but on the inferior surface there were several small calculi or concretions: the gall bladder was also proportionably small, and only partially distended with bile. All the remaining abdominal and thoracic viscera were appa-

rently sound and healthy. No examination was made of the brain. It was particularly remarked by the bystanders, as well as those who were well acquainted with anatomical proportions, that Dr Eustis was the most symmetrically formed of any man they had ever examined.

REPORTS.

DEATH FROM THE INTRODUCTION OF AIR INTO THE VEINS DURING A SURGICAL OPERATION.

At a recent meeting of the Académie Royale de Médecine, M. Samson read, in the name of M. Dupuytren, the following account:—A young girl, named Poirier, remarkable for her beauty, and the strength of her constitution, entered the Hôtel Dieu, on account of a tumor which occupied the posterior and lateral part of the neck. From its hardness, its virulence, and its want of sensibility, M. Dupuytren easily recognised that it was of a fibrous nature, and determined on removing it before it had acquired a larger size.—The operation was conducted with much skill and rapidity. The tumor no longer adhered, except to the anterior shred of the integuments; and the patient, who had only lost a very small quantity of blood, bore without much complaint the pain inseparable from so minute a dissection, when all at once a hissing noise of some duration (*sifflement prolongé*) was heard, analogous to that which results from the entrance of air into an exhausted receiver. The operator stopped for a moment in astonishment. "If I was not so far from the air-passages," said he, "I should think I had opened them." Scarcely had he finished the sentence, and given the last cut which was required to separate the tumor, when the patient exclaimed "I am dead!" She was immediately seized with general tremor, then fainted in the chair, and fell motionless: in vain was every means employed—the girl had ceased to live.

On opening the body, the pericardium was found to be perfectly healthy; the right auricle of the heart was distended with air, which gave it an elastic tension, and, when its parietes were cut, this air escaped in great part, without any admixture of blood: this cavity, however, contained a small quantity of uncoagulated blood.—Some blood, likewise fluid, was found in the other cavities of the heart, which were sound, and in the arteries and veins of the body, the limbs, and the brain; and, so much air was there, that the vessels, on being pricked at different points, every where gave vent to bubbles mingled with blood. The other organs presented nothing remarkable.

It is, then, to the introduction of a considerable quantity of air into the heart, that death is to be attributed. The manner in which this introduction took place is easily ascertained: a vein of considerable size, situated at the lower part of the tumor, and communicating with the jugular, was necessarily opened, and, continuing to gape at the moment when the act of inspiration drew the blood towards the chest, was filled with air, which the blood, and a movement of the tumor, must have thrown upon the heart. The air, becoming rarified in the cavities of this organ, had distended them, prevented their contraction, and thus suddenly produced syncope and death.

RUPTURE OF THE HEART.

M. Bayle relates the case of a lady, aged 68; corpulent, who in the time of the Revolution had experienced a great reverse of fortune, but who had for a long time been restored to comfort, and had enjoyed good health. On the 7th of last June, having a slight degree of fever, she consulted her physician, who found her with a slight cough and difficulty of breathing, the pulse not much accelerated and quite regular; the chest sounded well on percussion throughout, and the contractions of the heart were natural; she was rather constipated; and had been accustomed yearly, every spring, to catarrhal affections, which usually lasted about a week. She also said that she had had, for upwards of twenty-five years, a tumor in the left side, which she considered as the remains of a dropsical affection, with which she was afflicted at that time. This swelling sometimes produced great pain, and she supported it with a laced bandage. The medical men tried in vain to find this tumour,—it only appeared when she stood upright. The patient also complained that, within the few previous days, she had experienced in the night an extraordinary degree of agitation, accompanied with beating of the arteries of the head, and a moral irritation she could not account for. She then sleep; was perfectly calm, and laughed at them.

June, no fever, except a slight heat, frequency of the pulse. On the morning, having been up all day, and no longer considering herself a patient, whilst occupied in arranging some things in her wardrobe, on a sudden she was heard to scream out, and in the same moment she fell without a sign of life.

Many circumstances prevented the body being examined before the burial; but it was inspected six days after death, and four days after the funeral. The body was then found to be in a state of putrefaction, and gave out an extremely nauseous smell, which was much controlled by aspersions of the chloruret of lime; and they found (as they might have readily known during the life of the patient,) that there was really no tumor in the abdomen, the swelling arising from an abdominal hernia. In the chest, they found the pericardium containing two coagula of blood, of about three ounces in weight; and the anterior face of the left ventricle presented, at about an inch from the apex, an oval opening, a quarter of an inch long, and about three lines in breadth: its borders were ragged and torn, and the substance of the heart appeared softer in that part than elsewhere. Within, this opening was covered with a brownish fibrous concretion, mixed with the carniæ columnæ.—*Revue Med.*

INTELLIGENCE.

AUBURN MEDICAL SCHOOL.—The attention of the Medical Faculty and community generally, who are friendly to the establishment of a Medical School at Auburn, N. Y. is solicited in favor of the present efforts to prepare the way for a permanent institution.—The course of lectures for this year will commence on the first day of March next. On Anatomy and Operations in Surgery, by James Douglass, M. D.—On Theory and Practice of Medicine, by Dr E. D. Tuttle.—On Obstetrics, by Dr I. H. Smith.—On Chemistry and

Natural Philosophy, by Jedediah Smith, M. D.—The object is to commence a Medical Institution. Though the courses will be as full and complete as at the Colleges, the fee required will only be such as to defray the actual expenses.—Those gentlemen who intend to favor their views and receive the benefits of the course of Anatomical Demonstrations, will be pleased to forward their names to Dr Tuttle, or Dr I. H. Smith, Auburn, Cayuga Co. N. Y. on or before the 15th of Feb.

OPERATION IN LITHOTOMY.—The above operation was successfully performed on the 19th ult. by Dr Lewis L. Miller, son of Dr Miller of Franklin, Mass. at their house for the reception of invalids in that town, upon M. G. Bowditch of Needham. The patient was 52 years of age, and had been suffering for five years under this most distressing malady. The dexterity, skill, and presence of mind evinced by the operator, were truly admirable, and would have conferred honour upon a veteran in science. Such an one was present in the person of the operator's father, and we shall long remember the expression of gratified pride and affection, which beamed from his countenance, as he witnessed this early and decisive promise of the future eminence of his son and pupil. Many physicians of respectability, who were also present, united in bestowing upon their skilful brother the just tribute of unqualified commendation. The stone extracted was of a large size, (about that of a hen's egg,) and weighed nearly three ounces. No doubts are entertained of the complete recovery of the patient.—*R. I. American.*

EXPERIMENTS ON VOMITING.—Professor Tantini has lately performed a variety of experiments, with a view of ascertaining the degree of confidence to be placed in the opinions of M. Magendie upon this subject. He states that, when he left the cardia free, in substituting a bladder for the stomach, after the manner done by the French physiologist, no vomiting resulted; but, when a tube was introduced into the cardiac orifice the canula connected the bladder which was introduced into the place of the stomach, vomiting immediately occurred. From this he concludes, that, in the vomiting, we must take into the account, not only the action of the abdominal muscles and of the diaphragm, but likewise of the muscular coat of the stomach itself.—*Annali Universali*, July 1824.

MEDICAL POLICE.—An apothecary of Paris has recently been condemned to pay a fine of 3000 francs, for having sold half an ounce of arsenic, without taking, as the law directs, the name and residence of the purchaser, as well as the use intended to be made of the arsenic. On the trial, it appeared that no bad use had been made of the article, yet the judge declared that the law was imperative.

SUBSTITUTE FOR CASTOR OIL.—M. Hufeland asserts, that by mixing one drop of the oil of Croton with an ounce of syrup of poppy, a preparation is obtained, resembling, in a great degree, the Castor oil, and of which one spoonful produces analogous effects. Many successful experiments have been made with this preparation in the Polyclinic School at Berlin.

NEW-YORK DISPENSARY.—During the past year, 7635 patients have been admitted into the New-York Dispensary; of whom 6492 were cured—68 died, and 260 remain under attendance. Six thousand and eighty persons have been vaccinated.

PORTRAITS OF DR SMITH AND PROF. SILLIMAN.—The students of the Medical Institution in New-Haven, have engaged Mr S. F. B. Morse to paint a portrait of Professor Smith, and the members of the senior class in the academic institution, have voted to procure a portrait of Professor Silliman.

DR DEWEY'S New System of Midwifery, was about to be reprinted and published in London, and is highly esteemed there.

CODE OF ETHICS.—The excellent Code of Ethics prepared by the advice of the Medical Society of New-York, and written, we believe, by Dr Pascalis, of the city of New-York, has been translated into French, and republished in a highly respectable Journal of France, "What have American Physicians done?"

REMARKABLE FACT.—The Richmond Inquirer says there is now living in the county of Stafford, a gentleman, who has in 44 years raised a family of 45 persons, without a death, or an occasion for medical advice.

An apothecary having refused to resign his seat to an officer's lady, the officer feeling himself much insulted, sent him a challenge; the apothecary was punctual at the meeting, but observed, that having never been accustomed to fire, he had to propose a new way of settling the dispute. He then drew from his pocket a pill box, and taking thence two pills, thus addressed his antagonist:—"As a man of honour, you certainly would not wish to fight me on unequal terms; now here are two pills, one composed of the most deadly poison, the other perfectly harmless; we are therefore on equal ground, if we each swallow one—take your choice."—It is needless to add, that the affair was settled by a hearty laugh.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

Ending February 11; from the Health-Office Returns.

Feb. 4.—Elizabeth G. Jepson, 26. 6.—Hugh Mc Fadden; Mary R. Wilkins, 26; Maria Sanborn, 24; Lucy Bliss, 27; John Kendall, 57; Thankful Cunningham, 75; Joseph H. Robinson, 45; John G. Brown, 25. 7.—Caroline Barnard, 2 1-2; John W. Folsom, 66; Mary A. Tuttle, 3; Thomas H. Cutter, 54; Betsey Ames, 71. 8.—Joe Gaines, 77; Abigail Norwood, 76. 9.—William Smith, 37; Samuel H. Dearborn, 45; Mary Babcock, 65. 10.—George Weller, 67. 11.—Benjamin Houghton; Hannah Kilroy; John Williams, 46; Susanna Staples.

Consumption, 5—Childbed, 1—Debility, 2—Lung Fever, 3—Intemperance, 1—Croup, 1—Influenza, 2—Jaundice, 1—Brain Fever, 1—Strangulated Aernia, 1. City Poor, 3.

DIED.—At Cape Coast Castle, Africa, on the 5th of Sept. John Alexander Schetky, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh, Deputy Inspector of Hospitals, and Member of Council of Sierra Leone.

In Steubenville, Ohio, on the 1st ult. aged 77, Dr John McDowell, a native of Chester county, Pennsylvania, and, for the last 20 years, a citizen of Steubenville. At an early period of the Revolutionary War, entrusted by his native state with the command of a regiment, he cheerfully encountered its dangers, and the part which he sustained at the battle of Trenton, and the hardships and privations of three campaigns, will witness his entire devotedness to the cause he had espoused. At a subsequent period, he served his country as a member of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania. He continued a member of that body for three years, and, shortly after, represented his native county in the Legislature.

Wanted,

A N active, capable boy, 14 or 15 years of age, as an apprentice to the Printing business. One from the country would be preferred. Apply at this office. Feb. 8.

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"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1825.

No. 41.

OBSERVATIONS.

AN ADDRESS,

By RUFUS WILLIAM BAILEY, A. M. Pastor of the Congregational Church in Pittsfield.

(Continued from page 162.)

Combine an independence of spirit with decision in action, patience of suffering with self command under trials and dangers, and these qualities of mind will involve every feature essential to success; deliberation without delay, promptitude without haste, activity without rashness, independence without contempt, condescension without meanness, perseverance without obstinacy. Nor are these always the rich and gratuitous endowments of nature. They may be cultivated; and in every mind they owe their development much to education. Socrates was eminent for his self command; yet he once assured a friend that his natural temperament was extremely irritable.

Pass in review the character of any man who has been the admiration of the world, and we shall find, I apprehend, that the features of character now enumerated, have been the prominent points which have raised him to notice, and those which have principally commanded public admiration. They are the forming traits in the character of Homer's Ulysses, of Virgil's Æneas, and of all the persons of history or of fiction, who have commanded our admiration or applause.

But shall we sit down and say we have finished the picture of a great man, and call on you to admire the portrait? Shall we take any example of greatness which has been alluded to, or all the ennobling qualities of mind which have been enumerated, and be satisfied with the attainment? The skeleton of a dignified statue is formed, flesh is clothed upon the bones, the lineaments of a human form are eminently marked, and the breath of life is moving the man. But, unrestrained by principle, a principle which has not yet been recognised, it is a breath of pestilence; "blows mildew from between his shrivelled lips, and taints the golden ear;" such a breath, and such a spirit as animated the tall Archangel, when, arrayed in arms against the majesty of heaven, he stood with mingled envy, disappointment, and contempt, and said—

"O sun, how I hate thy beams!"

Never were great qualities of mind, decision, independence, patience of suffering, and self possession, more eminently exhibited than in Milton's fiend. And from the influence which such exhibitions have on the mind, we may not find it altogether unaccountable that a man, possessing the depraved sentiments of Robert Burns, should, in reading the Paradise Lost, "become enamored with the character of Satan." We should be sorry, however, to hold up such a character for imitation, or pass our praise on such qualities so exalted. No. It is the seraph himself burning with devotion before the throne of God, exerting these powers in acts of praise and of worship, bowing down before the Majesty of heaven, that we may admire and imitate. It is these great

and independent sentiments owing our Supreme, and merging all their glories in the divine, that finishes the character of true greatness. This it is which constitutes the true difference between Gabriel and Satan, and this must constitute the true value of every quality we admire in mind. Compare the desperate valor of the fallen angels with the spirit of the martyrs, or those whose mental distinctions have been chastened and regulated by piety, and then pass your praise on the worthiest. The spirit of the reformation is the exhibition of the human intellect, in one of its most preeminent exertions. In that effort of the mind are exhibited its prominent powers in their most chastened influence; the confidence of integrity, the independence of truth, the decision of conscious rectitude, the self command which is inspired by the divine presence.

Take as an example of a rich, original, unyielding, and heroic mind, John Knox, who looked down opposition, even from the throne, and came to a natural death in old age, because the Empire united was afraid to bring him to the stake.

Contemplate as an instance of independence, the simple example of John the Baptist, who reproved Herod of sin, at the expense of his favor and of life.

Take an instance of patience in suffering in St Paul, when he went bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, knowing that bonds and afflictions did abide him.

Take an instance of self command under provocation, in Michael the Archangel, when contending with the Devil. He "brought not railing accusation against him," but only said, "The Lord rebuke thee, Satan."

And I will adduce for your admiration and applause, an instance of decision in the christian, renouncing at once all his darling and cherished desires, waging war with himself, and carrying on a contest, requiring every exercise of mental power, which it is in the nature of man to possess or exert.

Religion, holding her empire in the heart, must shed her benign influence on the severer and more violent powers of the mind, to make true greatness subservient to the happiness of man. She must give direction to the energy of the mind, and control its power, or its independence will be but profaneness, its decisions desperate, its self command supercilious, its sufferings mean. The genius and greatness of the mind, must be bound by fixed laws to the heart as its centre, from which it receives its principal lustre, or it will be but the blaze of a comet, rapid, brilliant, and threatening. It comes not near to bless. We gaze upon its approach with admiration, but rejoice to see it retire. It is the influence of religion which gives all its charm to character—all its loveliness to mind. This will exert an influence on all the small circumstances of life, which go to make up the character of any community. Especially will it be demanded in those professional departments, where great responsibilities rest, and important exigencies are constantly pressing on the mind.

A man, when considered merely as an inhabitant of this world, may appear great in the display of some of the worst and most destructive powers. He may even present in his life many dignified exertions and virtues. But do we justice to the human character in tracing it from the cradle to the grave? Can that man appear truly great, who, though exalted and honored here, shall wither at the frown of the Almighty into eternal woe? And will there not be a permanent dignity attached to the mind, drawn from the number of forgotten and unhonored poor, and seated at the right hand of the matchless King of the Universe?

If these reflections be just, are we at liberty to separate the character of true greatness from the christian? It may indeed be asked, whether we speak to the subject, while we pass our eyes over the endowments or acquisitions of the human mind, which have no connection with a heart devoted to God. Such a character can, at most, command the admiration of the fallen star. We remember the place where it shone; we trace, in our recollection, the course of its splendid career, but it has passed away, and fallen into the blackness of darkness forever.

Let it not be imagined that true greatness of character, can appear only on great occasions, or in persons of distinguished stations. The meanest may aspire to it, may possess it. In the private walks of life, we often see manifestations of a soul swelling with a spirit of decision, of independence, of self command, of patience in suffering, which would do honor to the greatest and proudest stations. The widow's desolation, the orphan's tear, open a theatre for the display of true greatness, where we have often seen it exhibited as eminently as in any scene of life.—The attainment of true greatness is within the reach of all. Great convulsions are not necessary to its existence, though they may serve to develop it. Each individual moves in a sphere, where is an opportunity to exhibit all the valuable traits of character, which have served to render more conspicuous the higher stations. Every man has responsibilities. Every profession is important, and needs men eminent for all that is truly worthy; and the cultivation and due balance of the respective powers of the mind, is important to human happiness in every sphere. Cincinnatus was raised to the highest distinctions from the plough, where, if permitted to remain, his virtues would have shone not less conspicuously, though in an humbler sphere. Washington was an American farmer, and such would have been his only history, had not the peculiar state of the country developed those great qualities of mind, which had still existed, and been exerted, though limited to the theatre of private life. Often do we see retired and unostentatious displays of character, which designate minds moulded to the finest and most elevated cast, that seem only to need great occasions to make them known to the world.

(To be continued.)

INDIGESTION.

Mr Abernethy, in his third Lecture, when speaking of the evils of indigestion, says—"The ordinary causes of these complicated evils are as plain as A, B, C. It is evident, that they are to be traced to the very irregular and unnatural habits which men practise. When patients apply to me, and I see that their complaints are chiefly of the nature I have been describing, I tell them that I am no physician, and I offend them stoutly when I tell them that they have their health in their own keeping. If a man were to do as Cornaro did, he would be rewarded for it by a long and happy life. Cornaro was given over by his physicians at the age of thirty-five; he saw that there was not the least chance of recovery, if he continued to swallow the trash they were in the habit of giving him, and that there was no good in putting food into his stomach, if his stomach could not digest it;—what did it do there? why, it played the very devil with Cornaro's bowels. 'So,' said he, 'I dropped the plan pursued by my physicians, and adopted a regimen of my own.' The principal beauty of Cornaro's life was the happy state of mind in which his continued temperance preserved him. He limited himself to twelve ounces of food for each day; this was of a nutritious kind, and no inducement could prevail on him to exceed it. He enjoyed the simplest food with the greatest relish, for Cornaro's appetite was rather keen, [a laugh] so that he used to say, when eating a dry crust of bread, 'O! how delicious it is; it is so delicious that I am almost tempted to exceed my allowance!' yet he never did. He writes, between eighty and ninety—'The society of my friends is delightful, and even the company of children is amusing to me, and when not otherwise engaged I read godly books. But the infirmities of age increasing upon me, and becoming more feeble, my friends advised me to increase my diet, which I did to fourteen ounces. But, from the time I began to increase it, I was dissatisfied with myself, and felt that it was producing mischief in my stomach, and I had not continued it long before I was obliged to return to my former allowance.' Cornaro, however, could not live forever, and we find that, to the time of his death, he might be said to have enjoyed perfect health. He went down to the grave at the advanced age of one hundred and five; as the account is given by his niece, who was a nun at Padua.

"Now, what I propose as a diet is Cornaro's diet, and it is no fanciful system. The diet should always be of a moderate quantity; it should not be wholly vegetable or animal, but it should be of a nutritious kind. The diet I have taken the liberty to recommend to the public is Cornaro's, with a few conundrums of my own, as Dr Franklin says. I do not pretend to have adhered to such a diet as Cornaro did. Oh, no! I acknowledge myself to have been a sinner; and I remember once having been living irregularly, and having been taking butter and sauces and sweetmeats, and indulging a pampered appetite, things that turned acid and rancid on my stomach; I was seized with pain in my bowels, and headach, and had a sore throat; and I had a friend of mine, a physician, to look into my throat, and there was a long discussion as to what sort of cynanche it was to be—one said one thing and the second another; but I smiled and said, if you do not

know what it is, I know what will cure it; so I took a dose of calomel and jalap, and I lived upon toast and water for about ten days, and I got rid of my sore throat and fever together. It is of great importance that the functions of the alimentary canal should be regularly performed, and the quality of the secretions and excretions attended to as well as the quantity. Every old woman knows how necessary it is to attend to this, if she wishes to keep herself in a comfortable state of health, and therefore she mixes up some gentle laxative compound, such as a little senna tea with some manna, or perhaps with a little tincture of rhubarb; and she takes sufficient of this to act at a given time, and if it should fail of its usual effect, why, she adds a little more to the dose, or takes a smaller quantity of it in four hours, and thus the end is answered perfectly well. All men should particularly attend to this subject, especially those who have sedentary occupations, or who are advancing in years."

THE SEX OF OVIPEROUS ANIMALS, DETERMINED BY AN EXAMINATION OF THE EGG.

This is a curious subject, and one too which might at first be thought wholly speculative; but there are many and certain criteria for ascertaining the sex of birds in the egg, long before they are subjected to the process of incubation, and in connection with other physiological inquiries, there is scarcely any thing more interesting to the philosopher, than thus to dip into the labyrinths of nature, and illustrate principles by the examination of facts. A late writer in the London Medical and Physical Journal, has given a history of the opinions which have prevailed on the generation of the feathered tribes, and besides the vulgar notion in relation to the length and breadth of the shell, he has advanced some unimportant remarks, and ventured upon an hypothesis regarding the air which is pent up in the large end of the egg; but we place but little reliance on his researches.

Those who have examined boiled eggs, must have noticed that the air bubble is frequently confined to one side of the true axis—and perhaps it is oftener so than in the exact centre of the large end. This is a strong evidence of the true gender of the egg, or rather determines what the sex would have been if the egg had been hatched. When the air-cell is on the side, it is a female—and when precisely in the centre, it is a male. These observations may be tested, by determining the position of the air-cell, by holding a new egg between the eye and a candle, and in this way a brood of chickens might be selected, consisting entirely of males or females.

It is a well established fact that a bird rarely lays two eggs of the same size; some are longer than others, some are larger in diameter, and others are comparatively small; hence the young birds vary proportionally in size and weight. The males, however, are invariably larger than the females, and the size of an egg, therefore, will very nearly enable a critical eye to determine the future sex of the chick, without resorting to the inspection of the air-cell.

However frequently the position of the egg is changed, the chalaza, or cords, which are sent from the yolk towards the tunic surrounding the albumen, admit of being twisted thousands of times without being injured, and the yolk therefore always carries the cicatricula on the upper surface, so that no injury is sustained by the incubated egg, however often it may be turned over.—

Although the white revolves with the motion of the shell, the specific gravity of the yolk always keeps it in its original position, nor can motion, however rapidly revolutions are performed, turn it or even injure its structure.

The white spot on the surface of the yolk, *cicatricula*, is the embryo, and when the chicken is first liberated from the shell, the yolk can be taken out perfectly whole from its abdomen. This is destined to be the creature's food, till it has sufficient strength to pick up and digest more solid nourishment. A delicate tube can be found, leading from the centre of the yolk to the intestines, and as soon as this careful provision of nature is exhausted, the tube shrinks, and becomes a ligament to bind other viscera. People unacquainted with raising poultry, often destroy their broods of goslings, chickens, &c. by feeding them too soon; when, in fact, if no food is given them for two or three days, they are nearly sure of being healthy, for this gives them an opportunity to digest the yolk.

SHORT SKETCHES

OF A FEW EMINENT EUROPEAN LECTURERS.

The following particulars relate to several distinguished professional teachers, whose names are well known to most of our friends, and as they describe personal appearances as well as the professional qualifications, we are free to give them in our columns, hoping they may prove interesting to our readers.

M. DUPUYTREN, Chief Surgeon to the Hotel Dieu, at Paris, now about fifty-two years of age, the most distinguished operator in France, rose from small beginnings, soon became a surgeon's mate, and subsequently a surgeon in Napoleon's armies, where he acquired that peculiar dexterity in manual surgery, which has given him the excessive popularity he now enjoys in France. Perhaps there is not another man in the world who performs so many operations as M. Dupuytren.—He is pretty tall, of a robust habit, and when in the society of the ladies, is remarkably polite and courteous; but in the surgical theatre, he is thought by his greatest admirers to be a perfect barbarian. When his patients groan, or make any appeals under the pain of the knife, he has repeatedly been seen to cuff their ears, or strike them over the head with the handle of an instrument or any thing else which first presented itself. On one occasion, in amputating the legs of a soldier, who made a great outcry, the operator's natural irritability was so greatly excited, that he caught a handful of salve and lint which the servant was holding on the dressing board, slapt it into the poor fellow's mouth, and then went on to finish the remaining part of a very cruel operation.

M. Dupuytren is one of the smoothest lecturers in Paris, and such is his reputation abroad, that immense numbers of pupils flock in from various sections of the civilized globe, to profit by his experience and instruction. He has never written much himself, but his pupils and the journalists have generally been so active in reporting his cases as well as his theories (which are given in the lecture room), that there is little or no necessity for publishing on his own account. His style of living is splendid, and every way commensurate with the reputation of a man who commands the business of crowned heads.

M. RICHERAND, an author well known from a valuable work on physiology, is advanced in years. Although he excels as a writer of facts, there cannot be much said of his originality, if the volume before us is to be taken as one of his best productions. As a lec-

turer, he is said to be one of the *dullest* among the *dull*. We all know the peculiar sense of impatience and restlessness which is felt in listening to a slow, uninteresting teacher—and such an one we are assured is M. Richerand—tiring out and wearing out every body who attempts to sit under the eaves-droppings of his genius and experience.

M. BECLARD, the successor and continuator of Bichat's writings, is a decidedly popular teacher, and never fails of fixing the attention of his class. To great industry, is added a pleasing exterior, blended with an amiable cast of the face, which has the effect of engaging the interest of those who attend his course of instruction.

M. BOYER, as a lecturer on surgery, is also distinguished as an operator; he operates slowly and with remarkable coolness. As he gives the result of his experience to the public, he is evidently ambitious not only to increase his own reputation, but to accomplish something for the profession.

Mr ABERNETHY, of London, eminently distinguished, is a strange man in every sense of the word. His figure is tolerably good and commanding, but his vulgarity, his profanity, and the affectation of eccentricity which he seems so studious of exhibiting in every possible manner, quite astonish all well bred men, and often shock those who have any pretensions to goodness of character. There is a seeming absurdity in the circumstance that this gentleman is so celebrated as a surgeon, when it is well known that he seldom attempts performing an operation. He writes, lectures, and advises, and whenever it is his opinion that an operation is indispensably necessary, Mr Lawrence, a fine writer also, is generally called upon to use the instruments. Mr Abernethy gives two courses of lectures in a year, and generally to crowded audiences; three and four hundred pupils may ordinarily be seen in his lecture room. He usually begins his surgical course by informing the class that "*operations are the disgrace of the profession, and only show that for want of skill, surgeons resort to the use of instruments.*" In the warmth of lecturing, it is notorious that he often asserts that such and such theories are "*d—d nonsense,*" "*cursed lies,*" &c. without any apology. When his present majesty concluded to have a wen taken from his head by Mr Cooper—who afterwards became *Sir Astley Cooper* in consequence of cutting a tumor from a royal scull,—he despatched a messenger to Mr Abernethy, and desired he would attend the operation as counsel, at 12 o'clock the next day. To the surprise of every body, Mr Abernethy said to the Lord Chancellor—"Tell the king that I won't go at 12 o'clock—his majesty might have known that I have not missed of going into my lecture room precisely at that hour, for twenty years." It is scarcely necessary to add that his presence was not afterwards solicited.

Mr LAWRENCE, of whom we have just spoken, a favorite of Mr Abernethy, is a very gentlemanly man, and much beloved by all those who have the pleasure of his acquaintance. His book on hernia, &c. besides many important papers on various philosophical and physiological subjects, justly place Mr Lawrence in a conspicuous light, and entitle him to the esteem and honor of his contemporaries.

Mr CHARLES BELL, the only anatomist worth mentioning in England, is now between fifty and sixty years of age, rather short, stooping, and inclined to corpulency. In his dress there is an appearance of negligence, bordering upon the slovenly. Although he is as much

devoted to every branch of the profession as it is possible for one to be, his reputation is wholly founded on his extensive knowledge of anatomy. We are more indebted to Mr C. Bell for our correct knowledge of anatomy, than to any other author alone, ancient or modern.

Sir ASTLEY COOPER is the giant of surgery in Great Britain, and, like all the great ones of the earth, industry has been his making. Like Sir Humphrey Davy, who rose from an apothecary's boy to be President of the Royal Society, so Sir Astley Cooper rose from the humble employment of a hospital dresser to be the wonder of the medical world. It is almost unnecessary to enter into a detailed history of this extraordinary man, as the particulars of his life are already before the public.

Dr GOOD is strictly a learned writer, and but little troubled by the practice of his profession. It is said too that he is better known in America as a distinguished author, than by his next door neighbors in the city of London as a practitioner of medicine. He has certainly written a good book, embracing a complete guide to practice, and for which he deserves the gratitude of us all, and double thanks from those who live at a distance from any extensive medical library.

Dr BARCLAY, of Edinburgh, well known as the author of a new Anatomical Nomenclature, is a popular private lecturer on anatomy. As the Edinburgh School has been evidently declining for several years, Dr Barclay has had a favorable opportunity of exerting those talents which he possesses for illustrating his favorite pursuit. His museum of comparative anatomy is an object of great admiration to all travellers. His cabinet of human preparations is rather small and unimportant, when compared with his collection of rare and curious animals.

Dr MONRO, the present professor of anatomy in the University of Edinburgh, grandson of the first Monro, and the son of a father who had scarcely a superior or rival in anatomy, falls far below his distinguished progenitors in point of genius, learning, and that *tact* which is so desirable in a lecturer on this interesting branch of the profession. To slowness, he adds dullness,—and take it all in all, it is apparent that he was made a professor by hereditary dignity, rather than by his own merit. Since the decease of Dr Monro the second, and the elevation of his son to a chair which had been so ably filled, the clouds of darkness have begun to lower over a theatre and a school which were once the pride of the ancient city of Edinburgh, and the boast of the Scottish philosophers.

THE SEASON.

This season and its diseases might form a subject for volumes. Every body knows what is meant by "March weather," and we have had little else than March weather this winter. The consequence has been that lung fevers and affections of the throat, have been more numerous than we have ever before known them.—Scarcely a house in the city, but one, two, and still more generally every individual is confined to the parlor, chamber, or bed, with what is called the "prevailing cold," but which is, in fact, an inflammation of the mucous membrane of the fauces, throat, and lungs, attended with considerable fever. Among aged persons, in particular, the shafts of death have never before fallen so thickly;* and no age or constitution has been a thorough protection against them.

* To illustrate the truth of this remark, we present our readers the following extract from the list of deaths in the last Evening Gazette:—In this city, Mrs Mary

This complaint is, if possible, more prevalent in the surrounding country towns than in this city, which we attribute to the want of side-walks; for it seems, in a vast majority of cases, to have originated in wet or cold feet. To *avoid* it then, we advise our friends to take unwearied pains to keep the feet warm and dry; for which purpose nothing is so admirably adapted as *India-rubber Over-shoes*—an article which though but lately known among us, could not have been introduced at a more appropriate period.

To *cure* this disease, which, we fear, will not cease to prevail for many weeks, little else is requisite than confinement to a comfortably warm room for a week, occasionally a gentle laxative, and sipping every half hour a beverage made by sufficiently diluting sulphuric acid, and sweetening it well with loaf-sugar. Where nausea or much fever exist at the commencement, the course we have recommended should be preceded by an emetic. In very severe cases, the treatment should of course partake of a proportionate degree of severity,—but this must be left to the judgment of the attending physician.

THE ART OF REMOVING STAINS FROM CLOTH.

The important art of removing stains of different kinds from cloth, and restoring it to its primitive color, formerly consisted of an undigested mass of recipes, which were applied by the possessors of them, almost at random. Chaptal, in his *Memoire sur l'Art de Degraisser*, considered it in a chemical point of view, and to him we are indebted for a systematic mode of effecting this desirable object, which is at once simple and easy of attainment.

According to this chemist, the art of removing stains, supposes:—1st, a knowledge of the different substances capable of producing stains; 2d, that of those substances, by means of which stains may be removed; 3d, a knowledge of the action of the body employed, on the coloring matter, and its effects on the stuff; and 4th, the art of re-establishing a faded color.

Grease spots are easily known, but those produced by acids, alkalies, sweat, fruit, and urine, are more difficult to be discovered. These difficulties, however, are in a great measure overcome by observing, that acids *red*den all black, brown and violet colors, and in general those which are made with sorrel, iron, and the astringent principle. They also *red*den all the blue colors, except those of indigo and Prussian blue. Yellow colors are rendered pale by acids, but the yellow produced by annatto, becomes orange.

Babbit, 65; Mr Hawkes Cushing, 80; Mr Wm Homes, 83; Mr John Harrison, 88; Mrs Susannah Cushing, 93; Mrs Mary Clough, 86; Miss Elizabeth Greenleaf, 86; Mr Caleb Whiting, 60. In Weymouth, widow Ann Blanchard, 79. In Salem, widow Martha Cheever, 86; widow Hannah Needham, 72. In Lexington, Mrs Mary Brown, 84. In Fairhaven, Samuel Sprague, Esq. 94. In Acton, Mrs Ann Wilson, 94. In Sutton, widow Huldah Waters, 93. In East-Bridgewater, Mrs Chamberlin, 97. In W. Springfield, Dea. Amos Allen, 90. In Southbridge, widow Mary Plimpton, 84. In Stow, widow Mary Hall, 72. In Leominster, Mr Isaac Bennet, 94; Miss Sarah Wilder, 88. In Exeter, Mrs Ruth Rust, 73. In Abington, Mrs Mary Thaxter, 62. In Bennington, Vt Hon. Moses Robinson, 61. In Newburyport, Miss Hannah Bailey, 66. In Chester, N. H. Mr Wells Chase, 87. In Little Compton, R. I. 11th inst. Captain Ebenezer Church, aged 100 years and 6 days. In Salem, Dea. E. Sanderson, 73; Mrs Rhue, 97, the oldest inhabitant of that town. In Taunton, Capt. Isaac Godfrey, 97. In Norton, Mr Jonathan White, 78. In Lexington, Mr J. Wellington, 81—an officer in the Revolutionary War.

Alkalies cause scarlet, and the colors of the red Brazil wood, and of logwood, to become violet. They convert green woollen cloth into yellow, yellow into brown, and the color of annatto into a lively red.

Sweat has the same action upon these colors as the alkalies. Grease spots may be removed by alkalies, soap, yolk of eggs, alumina, by essential oils dissolved in alcohol, and by the means of a temperature which volatilizes the grease.

The oxides of iron are removed by oxalic acid. The acids are destroyed by the alkalies, the alkalies by the acids, and the stains of fruit on white stuffs, by sulphuric or oxygenated muriatic acid.

Compound spots are difficult to be removed; to destroy, for example, a stain made by the grease from wheel work, we must first dissolve the grease, and then take away the oxide of iron which remains, by oxalic acid.

It often happens, that the substances employed for these purposes, alter the color of the stuffs. In this case, a knowledge of the art of dying is serviceable. The chemist can remedy this defect, as the following examples prove:—Let us suppose that an alkali has been employed to remove the stain of an acid from a violet, blue, or red cloth, and that a yellow spot remains; by applying a solution of tin the original color is reproduced. For brown cloths so injured, a solution of sulphate of iron must be used.

When a yellow cloth has been converted into brown by an alkali, an acid will restore it to its primitive state.

Black cloth dyed with logwood becomes red with acids. These red spots become yellow with alkalies, and repass to black by an infusion of nut-galls.

One part of indigo, dissolved in four of sulphuric acid, and then diluted with water, may be employed with success to re-establish a blue color on cotton or woollen. Scarlet, which has altered its appearance, may also be restored by cochineal and a solution of tin.

Vegetable acids should have the preference over the others, when they can be used advantageously.

Sulphuric acid will remove the stains of fruit. This acid does not change blue silk, or yellow cotton, or the colors produced by the astringent principle.

Of the alkalies, ammonia, being most readily employed, and soon volatilizing, is most preferable for removing stains. It is most advantageous to use it in the gaseous state, for then its action is rapid and does not injure the color.

Spots of ink, iron mould, and all ferruginous spots, may be taken away by oxalic acid.* The color may be re-established by an alkali or a solution of tin. From white stuffs or paper, these spots may be taken away by the oxygenated muriatic acid.

In the *Espirit des Journaux* for May, 1798, the following process for removing ink spots from linen is published:—Some tallow or suet is melted in a ladle, the spots are imbued with it, and the linen is then washed. Lichtemberg has confirmed this simple process; and has even succeeded in removing ink spots by merely washing with soap.

* The powder sold in the shops for this purpose, under the name of *salt of lemon*, is only a mixture of two parts of carbonate of potash, with one of oxalic acid.

Spots caused by alkalies and sweat are removed by acids, or better, by a solution of tin.

Chaptal recommends the following means to be employed when the stains are compound; dissolve white soap in alcohol, and mix the liquor with the yolks of four or six eggs, then add to it some oil of turpentine, and form the whole into paste with fuller's earth. This composition will remove all kinds of stains except those of ink and iron mould. The spots are to be moistened with water and rubbed with paste. The lustre of the stuff may be recovered with a brush dipped in gum water. A sheet of paper is then applied, on which is placed a piece of cloth and a considerable weight, for the purpose of drying the stuff, and restoring its original appearance.

INTELLIGENCE.

SURGICAL OPERATION.—The operation of securing and dividing the great Femoral Artery, was yesterday performed by Richmond Brownell, M. D. on William Paine, who has been for six months past afflicted by a Popliteal Aneurism.—Dr B. was first called to this case only about ten days ago, from which time the operation has been unavoidably deferred, in consequence of the difficulty of obtaining proper lodgings for the patient. The aneurismal tumor was supposed, during its incipient stages, to be of an inflammatory nature, and treated, accordingly, by blistering, &c. The operation was successfully performed in 1814, by Professor Ingalls, and again, successfully, by Dr Brownell, in 1817—the only instances, before the present, which ever occurred in this town. An earlier operation would, unquestionably, have placed this case, like the others, beyond hazard; but, the great dimensions of the tumor, formed by a very large mass of coagulated blood, will in all probability produce extensive suppuration; and, from the long continued violence done the contiguous parts, caries of the bone may become unavoidable, although cicatrization of the part operated upon should proceed in the most favorable manner. The whole time occupied, to the completion of the dressings, was ten minutes.—*Providence Journ.*

YELLOW FEVER.—M. Andouard, one of the physicians of the military hospitals at Paris, has just published a very interesting memoir, under the title of—“Considerations on the Origin and Causes of the Yellow Fever, from Observations on that Disorder at Barcelona in 1821, and at Port du Passage in 1823.” In this treatise he proposes the following question, which is equally important to the science of medicine, and to morality and humanity, namely—Is not the Slave Trade one of the principal causes of the Yellow Fever? Striking experiments, and a strict examination of numerous and authentic facts, have induced the author to decide in the affirmative. The Committee of the Royal Academy of the Sciences, have declared that this question was new and important, and expressed a wish that Dr Andouard's treatise should be published.

CURIOUS COMPOSITION OF WOOD.—Messrs Bray and Malo have succeeded in imitating the most precious species of wood, and the rarest marbles, by means of cast wood, [bois coulé,] of their composition. All the thousand accidents, the infinite blendings of veins and shades, the transparent clouds of marble, which the pencil of the painter can imitate only on the surface, are obtained by Messrs Bray and Malo to whatever thickness they desire. The wood of their composition, whatever object of imitation or fancy it represents, may be planed like the coarsest ash, without any alteration. This valuable invention opens a new and vast field to all the arts connected with cabinet-making and orna-

mental architecture. Messrs Bray and Malo have even attempted to obtain in their composition the resemblance of the human countenance; they have executed in wood the portrait of his late majesty Louis XVIII.

ZINC PLATES FOR ENGRAVING.—In Germany at present, artists have begun to substitute zinc plates instead of copper plates, and also instead of stone for engravings. The artist draws on the zinc as on stone, and the expense of engraving is thus saved. A large work, being a collection of monuments of architecture, from zinc plates, has already appeared at Darmstadt, and is highly spoken of. The process is said to unite the economy of lithography with the clearness of copper engraving.

ISCHURIA.—Blistering the inside of the thighs has ever been considered the most immediately efficacious remedy for this disease. Dr Miner, of Connecticut, has recently advanced to us an opinion that *strong sinapisms*, similarly applied, will afford relief in a speedier and easier manner—an opinion which is founded on his personal experience, and if confirmed by further observation, will give us a good substitute for vesication in such cases.

NEW WORK ON SPOTTED FEVER.—We are informed that Dr Miner has completed the manuscript of a work on Spotted Fever, which we hope will soon be laid before the medical public. As a writer, Dr M. has gained a reputation which promises to be lasting.—The disease which forms the subject of this work, has been recently committing great ravages in Stonington, Conn.

THE GYMNASIUM.—Dr J. G. Coffin, of this city, is about to give three Lectures on the following subjects: 1st. Physical Education in connexion with intellectual and moral culture, as taught and practised in the recent gymnastic seminaries of Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, France, &c.

2d and 3d. On the means of promoting health and preventing disease.

LUCRATIVE BUSINESS!—George A. Buchanan informs the citizens of Baltimore, “that for fifty cents he will attend in any part of the city to extract a tooth or bleed a patient. Having practised Medicine and Surgery, in Virginia for three years, and having attended two courses of Lectures in the Maryland University, gives him a general knowledge of business.”

EYE INFIRMARY.—An Eye Infirmary has been established in this city, and located in Tremont-street, by Drs Reynolds and Jeffries, which promises extensive usefulness.

SHAMEFUL.—The small-pox has traversed from New York into almost every town on Connecticut River, during the past year.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending February 18; from the Health-Office Returns.

February 12.—Margaret Hyles, 15 months; Mary Clough, 36; Mary Morris; — Spinney. 13th.—Elizabeth Greenleaf, 36; Wm. Homes, 83; Jane Prentiss; Elizabeth Crispin. 14th.—Caleb Whiting, 60; Susannah Cushing, 93; George Hyler, 38; Ann Hickley, 3; John Harrison, 87; Margaret A. Clap, 6. 15th.—Rachel Baty, 21; Catharine Rannels, 15. 16th.—Hawcks Cushing, 80; Lucy Willcut, 35; Mary E. Sutton, 3 weeks; Otis G. Tompkins, 17 mo. 17th.—Jane Stoaks, 25; Catharine Green, 26. 18th.—Margaret Collins, 31; — Burleigh; Irene Trull, 45; Amos F. Higgins, 3; — Brown; Eliza Mates; Caroline M. Guild, 3.

Hooping-Cough, 1—Old Age, 6—Stillborn, 3—Dropsy, 3—Consumption, 3—Dropsy in the Head, 2—Sudden, 1—Infantile, 1—Childbed, 1—Cholera Morbus, 1 Lung Fever, 2. City Poor, 3—At the Hospital, 1.

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BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1825.

No. 42.

OBSERVATIONS.

AN ADDRESS,

By RUFUS WILLIAM BAILEY, A. M. Pastor of the Congregational Church in Pittsfield.

(Continued from page 165.)

In an age like our own, we are to look for a developement of character differing greatly from that which appeared in the Grecian and Roman states. The preservation of peace is a leading object of our institutions and policy. The pruriency for war, which, in earlier times, led the ambition of the master spirits, has given place to a more dignified taste for the arts of peace, and pursuits of science. The divine philosophy is more easily recognized that "he who is slow to anger, is better than the mighty, and he that ruleth his spirit, than he that taketh a city." And while the rude contest of the gladiator is reprobated, we hail with congratulation the growing sentiment, that he who refuses a challenge to single combat, is more honored than he who gives it.

It is under these circumstances, that the learned professions invite and receive the attention of those, whose active and aspiring minds seek a more public theatre than the paths of private pursuit. The youth, who in the conflicts of that restless state which characterized the Greek and Roman republics, would have been found in the tented field, will now be seen walking the paths of science, or laboring in the details of professional business. Under these circumstances, we may expect to see an excitement and progress in the department of letters, auspicious to the happiness of man. The multiplication of literary men can bring no detriment to the best interests of the community. It must terminate in the advancement of useful science, and in the improvement of the learned professions. Because, as candidates multiply, the most worthy will be patronized, industry will become necessary to success, while idleness and ignorance will fall into merited neglect. Every parish will learn to seek, and will be able to command the services of an eminent minister, an eminent lawyer, and an eminent physician.

To this distinction and patronage, I may believe the medical faculty and candidates who now hear me, have their expectations already formed. And on the broad basis of character already portrayed, I may hope they will seek to found their professional superstructure. It may not be improper, then, for me to detain you with a few hints on some of the necessary qualifications for eminence and success in the profession of medicine.

The responsibilities which press on the official duties of a physician, and the nature of those duties, eminently demand that his reputation should be built on that basis of character already defined: a principle, which will lead him to feel a moral responsibility in every thing he approaches or undertakes; an independence of mind, which will raise him above the influence of his own weakness, or that of others; a decision, which can inspire at once promptness and energy of ac-

tion; a patience, which can bear all things; a self possession, which may enable him to bring all the powers he has, to act in the most critical emergencies; to unite cool deliberation with a decided action, readiness of expedient with carefulness, a nervous insensibility with the kindest humanity, and a regardlessness of distress with a tender sympathy. Indeed, it is necessary there should be the most intimate connection between the sensibilities of the heart, and the hand of the operator, and yet no connection which will alter a steadiness of purpose, or shake a stern resolution. To this effect, it is absolutely necessary the powers of the mind be well balanced, and that the nervous and physical organization be formed and strengthened by a temperate constitution of habits, and of feeling.

We are led also to perceive that the character of a physician is very much involved in his preparatory course. Next to

"Him who negotiates between God and man,
As God's ambassador, the grand concerns
Of judgment and of mercy,"

the physician has the greatest trust committed to him by those who seek his professional services. Indeed, when we speak of the business of preparation, it is doubtful whether even the minister needs more preparatory study and accurate investigation. There are points of discrimination to be marked, varieties of cases to be understood, and appropriate remedies to be prescribed, which can never be treated with safety, except by the well-read man. The collateral branches of science, which pertain to his profession, are numerous and important. It is not enough that a physician be able to define diseases, and prescribe the accustomed remedies: he must mark the numberless shades of variation which obtain in the diseases themselves, and be accurately acquainted with the nature of the medicines he administers. His studies, therefore, must extend to a scientific, chemical, experimental acquaintance with *Materia Medica*. Botany and Mineralogy will have a prominent claim on his attention, as furnishing an important part of the medicine he uses; and also embracing others which ought to be the objects of his search. Medical Jurisprudence will also occupy his serious attention, not only as a superficial and general subject, but as connected with questions of morality and of law, deeply involving the public interests. He must also be intimately acquainted with the structure and physiology of the human body, which can be known only by actual dissections, and minute investigations. When I have a limb to be amputated, or an anatomical operation to be performed, I seek to place the knife in the hands of one who is intimately acquainted with all that lies in the neighborhood where he operates—who cuts my flesh, not for experiment, that he may know how to cut another better; but who only does what he has done before, or at least what he has had opportunity to know.

To any great degree of proficiency and acuteness in Anatomy and Physiology, it is necessary also the student be able to bring to his aid a thorough knowledge of mechanical philosophy.

The principles of this science are absolutely necessary, to explain the motions of animals, with the nature and extent of their physical powers, the velocity of the blood, and the principles on which its circulations are effected and continued, and directed from the principal vessels at different angles to supply, without surfeit, the various parts of the body, and again sent back in regular and precise returns, to receive and convey from the fountain, a new tribute of life and health, to the remotest extremities. Mathematical principles are necessary, to understand and explain the philosophy of vision, on the important organ of which, so many nice operations are required.—And not less necessary are many important principles of natural philosophy in the anatomy of the ear, to show the uses of the various organs in relation to the phenomena of sound. An accurate acquaintance with Chemistry, too, must bring an important aid to the physiologist. It has already served to explain and illustrate the important functions of respiration and digestion, and is to be concerned in future, and more minute observations which will doubtless perfect the knowledge of those, and other operations of the animal system. To come to his practice thus prepared, it is necessary the physician should have studied well, and under favorable advantages. When I see a young man preparing to announce his name to the public for their patronage as a physician; when I see him idle and superficial, listless and vagrant, I cannot but feel a commiseration for the people who shall place their lives at the risk of his empiricism or ignorance.

But it is not enough that the physician should come to his profession well-read, and intelligent in what is already known. Knowledge is progressive, and this is peculiarly an age of improvement. Great improvements are making in medical science, and every man belonging to the profession ought to contribute something to its advancement. He must, therefore, continue to study and investigate his profession, or the next class of candidates will come and tear away the reputation he might have enjoyed, and leave him at leisure from professional duty, to dig or beg his bread. If the physician would arrive at eminence, he must not only know more than the people who employ him, but more than others around him in the same profession. His character will be adjudged by a comparison with those of similar pretensions and claims.

When the well qualified physician comes thus before the public, the continuance and advancement of his reputation must depend much on the improvement he makes from actual practice and observation. Here he will be found to need some peculiar qualifications, to gain the confidence and patronage of the public, and ensure to him a successful business. One is connected with his intercourse with his patients.

Every family makes their physician a confidant and friend. And when he is selected, regard is had, not merely to his professional knowledge, but to the general character of the man. He must be a man susceptible of the affections of

friendship, that he may not only *appear*, but be a friend. He must be a *discreet* man, for many things are committed to his knowledge, which may not be disclosed. He must be a man of moral integrity, that he may be able to resist every temptation to cover iniquity; for the profession often encounters circumstances, where a bribe to moral corruption is held out. He must be a merciful man, that he may not be insensible of the misery which others feel. When my physician feels for me, it seems to divide the pain; it inspires my confidence. But the "unkindest cut of all" is that which grows out of carelessness, ignorance, or insensibility. I once suffered severely under the operation of a medicine, till my physician called and told me he had mistaken the dose. How could that be? Why, he had poured from the wrong bottle. But Doctor, how could you mistake the bottle? And this is a question no physician can answer with satisfaction to his patient. It might have been arsenic, as well as camphor.—He must be an active and faithful man, easily called, and soon there. When a case is committed to his care, he ought to feel the interest of a family friend in the event. His attentions must be suited to the case, and assiduously rendered. A sick man should have a friend in his physician. He gives his life up into his hands. And if he be a merciful man, he will feel the magnitude of the charge, and identify his feelings with those of an anxious family. A physician, whom I loved, perhaps, more than any other, laid his strongest hold on my confidence and affection, when I saw him weep at the death of a patient.

(To be concluded next week.)

EFFECT OF WAGES ON HEALTH.

A very interesting Memoir was lately read in the Academy of Sciences, by a Dr Villermé, on the mortality in France in the class in easy circumstances, compared with what takes place among the indigent.

The results which Dr Villermé has here communicated, are of the greatest importance, and demand, in a particular manner, the attention of all whose station in society enables them to influence public opinion. We find that in two *arrondissements* of Paris, the first and the twelfth, the former, which is inhabited by rich persons, has a mortality of one in fifty, and the latter, which is inhabited by poor, has a mortality of one in twenty-four, there being no other assignable cause for this enormous difference, than wealth and poverty. Nay, he found the deaths in *Rue de la Mortellerie*, where poor people are crowded together in unhealthy lodgings, four times and a half as numerous as in the Quays of the *Isle St Louis*, where rich people live in large and well ventilated apartments.

We find from Dr Villermé's researches, that the mortality in the Hospitals rises or falls with the rate of wages of those who enter them.

Of Jewellers, Compositors, &c. there die in the Hospitals	1 in 11
Milliners	1 in 8
Shoemakers	1 in 7
Masons	1 in 6
Laborers	1 in 5
The poorest of all, rag-gatherers, &c.	1 in 4
Soldiers, who are the best off	1 in 10

The results must, we should think, cure those silly people amongst us who deem the poor in-

jured by high wages. One laboring man may kill himself by dissipation when his wages are high, but this is the exception to the rule. We see that the higher the wages, the smaller is the mortality. As many people are enemies of the industrious classes from ignorance rather than malice, this truth cannot be too often inculcated, that the higher the wages the greater the health of the people, and that the health rises with the wages. So far does this go, that we find in the poor departments of France, the half of the inhabitants are cut off at twenty, while in the rich the half reach nearly forty.

DIFFERENCE IN STATURE.

Every person knows that a simple mode of life, abundance of nutritious food, and a salubrious atmosphere, give to all organic beings large and graceful forms. The example of the Laplanders and Hungarians, whose language indicates their common origin, and who differ extremely in stature and physiognomy, sufficiently proves that the beauty of the same race varies with the climate and the qualities of the country. The Germans of Tacitus, those Patagonians of Europe, are no longer found in civilized and cultivated Germany, whilst the Hollander, in the interior of the colony of the Cape, has become almost a giant. How many contrasts do we not meet with in a single nation, and at inconsiderable distances? The female peasants of Westrogothia are uncommonly pretty, and those, of Delacarla are in general ugly, although both provinces occupy the centre of the real country of the Goths. Violent passions, the yoke of superstition, dull or cheerful occupations, habits of activity or indolence, stamp a permanent character on the physiognomy of whole nations.

MAXIMS OF HEALTH.

The more luxuriously you live, the more exercise you require.

Be content with one dish. As many dig their grave with their teeth as with the tankard.

The food which was fancy most, generally sits easiest on the stomach.

To affirm that any thing is wholesome or unwholesome, without considering the subject in all the circumstances to which it bears relation, and the unaccountable peculiarities of different constitutions, is (with submission) talking nonsense.

What we have been longest used to, is most likely to agree with us best.

MAN, PHYSICALLY CONSIDERED.

The following article is from the great work of M. Malte-Brun, now publishing in Boston. This particular extract is from the part of the work called Physical and Political Geography:—"The physical organization of man, while it subjects him to those laws of generation, growth and dissolution, which extend to all orders of living nature, bears at the same time, in each of its parts, and as a whole, a character so peculiar, so extraordinary, and so sublime, that it is impossible to suppose even the most distant relationship between the brutes, which do nothing but feed and propagate on the surface of the earth, and him who is born to exercise dominion over them. The upright and elevated port, which indicates both dignity and courage;—

those hands, the trusty instruments of our will, the dexterous performers of the most magnificent, as well as the most useful works; those eyes, uplifted from the dust, whose intelligent glance can survey the immensity of the heavens; those organs, which enable us to express thought by articulate sounds of endless variety; the admirable union of strength and suppleness in all our members; finally, the harmony and perfectibility of all our senses, assign to us the first rank amongst living beings, and give us both the right to claim, and the power to hold the empire of the earth."

PUBLIC DISSECTIONS IN FRANCE.

A few weeks ago we attempted a plain unvarnished statement of the excessive difficulties attending the study of practical Anatomy in the United States—a country deservedly celebrated for freedom in every thing except giving liberty to *Slaves*, and facilities to *Schools of Medicine*. We are as great sticklers for *law* as our most fastidious neighbors of the bench, but are completely of Alexander Stephens' opinion, that "it is like bad weather, and most people are glad when they get out of it." Yet so piteously has the storm beaten of late on some of our brethren, and so severely and unjustly have they suffered under the present acts and *re-acts* of this commonwealth, in consequence of their anatomical perseverance, that it has roused, in every liberal mind, a spirit of indignation against such *narrow-minded policy*; *policy*, so mis-called, which had its origin in ignorance, and which has a direct tendency to destroy the very foundation of the healing art.

It is our present object to lay before our readers a statement of the national patronage bestowed by France on her Surgeons and her Seminaries for diffusing medical knowledge. Napoleon, who always studied the interest of general science, gave the first spring to the profession in France, and the continuation, by his successors, of the system which he so wisely adopted, has raised the reputation and extended the usefulness of the Surgeons of France, far beyond those of any other country on the globe.

The manner in which the dissecting tables are supplied, is this (and such is the acknowledged importance of dissections, that a man would be thought insane to deny the utility of the practice, or speak disrespectfully of those devotees of science, who are so ardently engaged in the pursuit of this valuable and absolutely indispensable knowledge):—there are about twenty hospitals within the city of Paris and its purlieus, attached to some of which are large halls, each about one hundred feet in length, and plentifully furnished with convenient tables, and all the necessary apparatus of knives, &c. for dissecting, and each student has his particular place, for a trifling sum, where he may study and contemplate the complex machinery of man, undisturbed and at his leisure. A cart, (made somewhat in the form of the tumbrel which carries the cartridges of artillery), goes to each hospital, every morning, to receive the bodies of those who may have died during the preceding day and night; which bodies, when collected, are carried to a hall called *salle des morts*, where any person wishing for a subject, may go and select for himself by paying five francs, about one dollar. After each person, engaged in dissection, is supplied, the remaining bodies are carried at a distance from the city and buried. No friends lament this custom, no ignorance grumbles at it, no bigotry wages war with it.—Now among us, the bodies of those degraded wretches who die in our alms-houses, unknown and unregretted,

the victims of intemperance and every species of debauchery, would answer all the necessities of our schools, and one would think this would be their legal destination;—but no,—only touch with a scalpel the cuticle of a deceased Lascar, who died under the gnawing ravages of the *lues venerea*, and then comes the iron grasp of our boasted laws—laws which in other respects are so liberal, and which are said to “cherish all the useful sciences.”

The Schools of Medicine in Ireland, as well as those of France, are furnished with subjects by a special law, and this facility has not only been the direct means of developing the talents of many eminently distinguished physicians and surgeons, who otherwise might have been mere itinerant desperadoes in the profession, but it has raised the character of the profession in the Emerald Isle, and induced our enterprising young men to become pupils in a foreign country, not only to their own pecuniary embarrassment, but also to the astonishment of the civilized world, who have always heard of *America* as the home of science as well as of liberty.

MEDICAL LITERATURE OF MAINE.

It has been our purpose to give a general and impartial account of the condition of medical literature in all the different states, because there is something peculiar in each of them—not so much in principle as form.

Since its organization as a distinct and independent state, new energies, both political and intellectual, have been developed in Maine, and we must therefore regard her scientific and literary character, medical as well as general, as somewhat peculiar.

There are a number of well bred and well read Physicians in Maine, who are no way inferior in point of practical talents, to those of more southern regions. The severity of the seasons and the barrenness of many large tracts of land in this state, would lead one to suppose there would be but little inducement for a man of feeling or conscious talents, to devote his life to the arduous labor of medical practice within its borders. The country is comparatively new as well as rough, and but few of the inhabitants are able to pay in cash the hard earned wages of their Doctor. Discouraging as this must appear, the poorest places and the smallest villages in Maine, are often blest with the best physicians. Indeed the reputation of the physicians generally, in these cheerless abodes, is that they are useful, industrious, obliging and skilful. In the town of Hallowell, there resides a Physician, (Dr Benjamin Page), whose talents, judgment, and practical skill, would alone redeem the professional character of the state.—We have never, in any country, met with a medical practitioner whose views are more liberal or just, or in whose hands we should so willingly entrust ourselves, in a dangerous disease. His unexampled success in treating the Spotted Fever which appeared in that country in 1814,* whilst so many were falling victims to the disease in the neighboring towns, and many cases which have come to our knowledge of his successful management of pulmonary inflammation, dropsies, curvatures of the spine, the hip complaint, and other obstinate chronic affections, would, if given to the world as they ought to be, constitute a basis of lasting fame, and be an ample herald of his sound practical judgment, and extensive information on professional subjects.

The number of extensive Libraries of good and recent medical books, is small in this state. The Physicians

* See a sketch of Dr Page's treatment of this disease in Thacher's Modern Practice.

generally read the old standard works, and are contented with them, so they but see, every third month, the New-England Journal of Medicine and Surgery. The medical department of the rich and valuable library belonging to Bowdoin College, occupies already several alcoves, and is receiving frequent accessions both to its extent and excellence. A private medical library, which is perhaps more complete and more useful than any other in this country, is to be found in Maine;—it is complete not only in the standard works on the various subjects of medicine and its collateral sciences, but in all recent publications of value;—it is useful not only to its possessor, but, through his liberality, to any Physician who wishes to consult it. This is also at Hallowell, and owned by Dr Benj. Vaughan, LL. D. a gentleman as much beloved in Maine for his philanthropy, as he is respected every where for his philosophy.

Although the State Medical Society is scarcely known abroad, laudable endeavors have been making by its members to render it respectable, and there must unquestionably be a satisfaction in the hope that these endeavors will not be in vain. We are informed, however, that there is a worm in the pedestal, and however flattering may be the present success, it cannot be of long duration. There is no medical publication issued in the state, and it is somewhat doubtful whether one would receive sufficient patronage at present, in consequence of the wide circulation of the medical journal which we have spoken of, and which is taken by almost every creditable physician in Maine.

This state has very properly but one regularly established School of Medicine, and that is under the control and supervision of the legislature, and has already been so well nursed, that it not only promises usefulness to the community, but also bids fair to be one of the ornaments of the state. The system of *pinching* their teachers, so well understood and so commonly practised by college conservators, by way of *economy*, is totally unknown by the government of Bowdoin College, and hence there is every good reason for believing that the reputation of the medical department will be well supported. The prevailing opinion that medical professors are part cameleons, who can thrive as well on air as more substantial aliment, merely because so many of them, to the disgrace of the country, have worked for nothing—in more senses than one—has never been a prevailing notion with the legislators of Maine; and if they are desirous of numbering more learned and excellent physicians and surgeons than exist in some states of three times the magnitude of theirs, they must continue to cherish and sustain the Medical School attached to the College at Brunswick.

REPORTS.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH BY A POISONOUS PLANT.

Sunday, January 23, a young man in the vicinity of Cincinnati (Ohio), died in convulsions, about three hours after eating the root of a plant which he supposed to be what is called “Spikenard.” A lad about nine years old, who ate some of it at the same time, suffered very severely, but is recovering. The young man died before medical aid could be obtained. The lad was attended by Doctors Wright, Ramsay, and Smith. The plant has been examined by Dr Locke, who has communicated the following account of it to Dr Wright:—

SIR—The plant brought to me by Mr R. is the *American Hemlock*, called also *Water Hem-*

lock, *Cowbane*, and *Snakeroot*, (*Cicuta Maculata* of Linnæus). It is a common plant in this neighborhood, and its extreme noxious qualities seem not to be suspected, notwithstanding it has destroyed a number of persons in different parts of the United States.* Avoiding technical terms as much as possible, I shall attempt such a description as may be generally understood.

It grows in wet places, and often to the height of six or seven feet. The stalk has a general resemblance to that of a full grown seed parsnip. The root lives through the winter, and is probably most virulent during that season. It consists of a number of finger-like portions, proceeding from the base of the stalk, and extending a few inches into the ground, where they terminate in blunt ends, resembling the end of the finger. When cut across, it exhibits numerous pores, from which exudes a viscid, yellowish juice, of a strong, penetrating taste. The smell is strong, and not unlike that of the parsnip.—Both the smell and taste of the root are rather agreeable, resembling the “Spikenard” (*Aralia racemosa*), the root of which is often ate.

The stem dies every autumn, but like numerous other large weeds, often remains standing during the winter. It is round, hollow, smooth and jointed, with spreading branches. The leaf-stalk clasps the stem in a sheath, branches two or three times, and bears from nine to thirty leaflets, with sharp teeth on the edge.

Its white flowers and round seeds grow in heads (umbels), at the ends of the branches.—Each branch divides at a common centre into numerous rays; each of these rays divides in the same manner into numerous other little rays or stalks, each of which bears a flower or fruit.—The larger or lower stalks have no leaves about the centre from which they spring, but the smaller or upper ones have a fringe of very minute leaflets, less than one fourth of an inch in length.

J. LOCKE.

The following detail of symptoms manifested in the case of the youth who recovered, has been furnished by a medical gentleman:—

Convulsions; nausea and vomiting; eyes glassy and wandering—pupils dilated and insensible; pulse hardly perceptible; extremities cold; constant jactation; antagonizing muscles alternately convulsed, drawing the eyes and angles of the mouth right and left, in quick succession; jaws locked; ejections of frothy mucus, mixed with a dark flocculent sediment and blood; muscles of deglutition spasmodically affected, on presenting any substance to the mouth. Such were the symptoms in the advanced stage, in the case of Mr A.'s son, who has recovered.

The other case (which was a young man aged nineteen), terminated fatally, in convulsions, three hours after eating the root, before medical aid could be obtained. There was a post-obit examination of the body, the results of which warrant the inference that death was produced by the poisonous effect of the root of some vegetable, acting through the nervous system on the brain and heart.

G. W. WRIGHT.

[*Cin. Emp.*]

LOVE SICKNESS SUCCESSFULLY TREATED.

A young gentleman, who had for a long time preferred his suit to a disdainful mistress, finding that all attempts to soften her obduracy

* See Bigelow's Medical Botany.

were vain, determined to make one desperate effort—such as he conceived no woman could withstand. Having obtained access to the inexorable beauty, he informed her that, to convince her of the force of his attachment, and, at the same time, to free himself from the pangs of unrequited love, he was come to expire at her feet, not metaphorically but literally; and for this purpose, presenting her his sword, he requested that she would grant him the last favour he should now solicit, and pierce the heart whose fidelity she would not reward. Of course, the lady begged to be excused, or else ordered her servants to conduct the poor crazy swain to his friends;—but, no, she actually proceeded to comply with his request, and inflicted upon him a wound from which he did not recover quite so speedily as from the fancied ones which had before tormented him: for it is almost unnecessary to say, that the latter were instantly removed.

VARIETIES.

WONDERFUL CURE.—We are requested—says the Lincoln (Me.) Intelligencer—to give publicity to the following wonderful cure:—Henry Perkins, of Newcastle, aged 32, has been deranged for a number of years; and for the two last, it has been found impossible to keep his clothes on him—and he has not uttered a word. On the 14th inst. Dr Wright was called to visit in the family, and observing the situation of this poor maniac, after a little investigation, concluded to take him home, and see what he could do for him. He then commenced a course of operations, which has been so far successful as to make him docile and obedient to his commands—to wear his clothes, and to keep himself clean. He has thus rendered a suffering fellow being comfortable, and in some measure useful in society; and has relieved the town of Newcastle of the burden of his support. The course of treatment is not stated; it is hoped, however, that the learned Doctor will make known to the public, *by what power* he has thus cast out devils, caused the dumb to speak, and all the people to marvel.

MEDICAL PREMIUMS.—The proprietor of the Medical Recorder proposes to give premiums for a series of essays, the choice of the subjects to be left to the candidates themselves. These essays, which must be transmitted on or before the first days of January or July, with a sealed letter enclosing the name of the writer, will be submitted to the examination of not less than three respectable physicians. The successful essay will be published in the next succeeding number of the Recorder. The premium of fifty dollars will be paid in medical or other books.—The Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, offer a premium of one hundred dollars, or a gold medal of equal value, for the best essay "*On the Pathology and Treatment of Cholera Infantum.*"

MEDICAL REMAINS AT POMPEII.—M. Choulaut has published at Leipsic a pamphlet entitled, "*De Locis Pompeianis ad Rem Medicam facientibus,*" containing an account of different objects relating to the medical art, discovered at Pompeii. He describes the temple of Æsculapius, the amulets, surgical instruments, pharmaceutical apparatus, &c. found in the midst of the ruins. Amongst the surgical instruments were found some nearly resembling those made use of at the present day; as, for instance, elevators for the operation of trepanning, lancets, spatulae, instruments for the application of the actual cautery, &c. There has not been found one single building which could be regarded as a school of surgery or anatomical museum.

ORGANIC REMAINS.—The Sussex (Eng.) Advertiser Newspaper, gives an account of some remarkable Organic Remains, found in forming the tunnel under the road at Kemp Town, Brighton. These are represented to belong to the elephant and horse, and it is conjectured by the writer are antediluvian. It is also mentioned that a Mantil has discovered in the iron sand-stone in

that neighborhood, the teeth and bones of a herbivorous reptile of immense size, and resembling in character the Iguana of the new world. We are rather staggered at seeing it estimated at sixty feet in length—a prodigious lizard!

MAD COW.—On Friday last, as Dr Scott, of Blairsville, was driving a cow through that town, the animal became suddenly enraged, and darting furiously forward, came across two children who were playing together in the street. One of the children was killed on the spot, and the other had its skull fractured, and was otherwise seriously injured. The cow continued her course, threatening destruction to whatever came in her way, and would doubtless have committed other serious mischief, if it had not been for the prompt measures of Mr John Mulholland, who seized a gun, pursued the animal, and shot her. The child, it is feared, will not survive.—*Greensburgh Gazette.*

TO MAKE SEALING WAFERS.—Take very fine flour, mix it with glaire of eggs, isinglass, and a little yeast; mingle the materials; beat them well together, make the batter thin with gum water, spread it even on tin plates, and dry it in stoves; then cut them for use.—You may make them what color you please, by coloring the paste, say with Brazil or Vermillion for red, Indigo &c. for blue, &c.

DR GEITNER, a skilful chemist at Schneeberg, in Saxony, has invented a new metallic compound, the qualities of which very much resemble those of silver. It is malleable, and is not subject to rust or tarnish.—Candlesticks, spurs, &c. have already been fabricated with this composition—and it is highly probable that the discovery will lead to great alterations in the manufacture of goods.

TO TAKE OFF INSTANTLY A COPY FROM A PRINT OR PICTURE.—Make a water of soap and alum, with which wet a cloth or paper; lay either on a print or picture and pass it once under the rolling press: you will have a very fine copy of whatever you have laid it upon.

TO CLEAN PICTURES.—Make a lye with clear water and wood ashes; in this dip a sponge and rub the picture over, and it will cleanse it perfectly. The same may be done with white wine, with the same effect.

FOOD AND PHYSIC.—If you have a severe cold and are very hoarse, have some water-gruel prepared in the ordinary way; when nearly ready slice in two or three good onions; simmer it again twenty minutes; pour it out; put in a lump of butter, with pepper and salt, and eat it (with bread if you are hungry); go to bed soon after; the next morning, if you are not quite well, you will be much improved, and willing to try a second dose, which will certainly effect a cure.

QUACKERY EXPOSED.—An authentic report of a trial before the S. J. Court of Maine, for the county of Washington, June Term, 1824—Charles Lowell vs. John Faxon and Micajah Hawks, surgeons and physicians, in an action of trespass on the case, for ignorance and negligence in their professional treatment of the plaintiff's dislocated hip; with observations, &c. &c. is advertised for sale by the booksellers of Maine.

DESIRABLE RESIDENCE.—In the Richmond Enquirer, a Mr Talliaferro offers for sale his establishment in Hanover town; and among other commendatory things in its favor, says, "the situation is one that will suit a professional gentleman (particularly a physician) extremely well—being in a very agreeable, wealthy and sickly neighborhood!"

LACERATION AND AMPUTATION.—In Foxcroft (Me.), on the 14th inst. Peter Brawn, son of Mr Peter Brawn, of that place, had his left leg caught between the butt and the root of a tree which he was falling, and entirely separated from the thigh, near the knee-joint. Amputation of the thigh was performed next morning, by Doctor Greene, of Athens.

DR MIDDLETON delivered, at the Representatives' Chamber, in the State House, on last Friday evening, a Lecture upon the subject of Consumption, Pulmonary

Complaints, and Pectoral Affections, generally. The audience was large and very respectable, and the lecturer was listened to with deep attention. His subject was one which interested many who were there, on their own account, and many on account of their friends. The respectability of the gentleman is well known. Many of the most eminent physicians in the United States are his personal friends, and we were pleased to see most of the medical faculty of this city present at his lecture. In justice to him, it should be further mentioned that it was delivered gratis.—*Hartford pa.*

VACCINATION BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS.—We learn that Dr Fansher has sent the Vaccine Virus, for the first time to the inhabitants beyond the Rocky Mountains, by Mr Herman, one of the members of the North-West Fur Company. It is said they are a superior race of natives. Mr Herman has been beyond the Rocky Mountains nineteen years. He says that the last time the small-pox visited that region, it destroyed two thirds of the whole population! He further says, that he knew a native who was the only survivor of a company of twenty-seven—all the rest having died of the small-pox. It is presumed the specific will be acceptable to the people of that cold region.

BURNING SPRINGS.—There are several springs on the farm of Mr Allen Loomis, in Middlesex, from which is emitted a gas as inflammable as gunpowder. Mr L. has, by means of pump logs, conveyed the gas from one of these springs, about twenty rods to his dwelling, where it answers all the purposes of oil and fuel, for light and heat. He burns it in cooking stoves as well as others, and so powerful is it, in combustion, that if the doors be shut, it throws the griddles from the top, to obtain vent; if confined, it would burst the strongest stove. Tubes are used for lighting the different rooms.

HYDROPHOBIA.—Some sections of Harford county, Md. are at this time much infested with mad dogs, which have done considerable mischief. On Thursday last, no less than four persons are said to have been bitten in Abingdon.

MEDICAL DEGREES.—The following gentlemen were week before last admitted to the degree of Doctor of Medicine at the Medical College in Mason-street, Boston, viz:—A. D. Dearborn, Moses L. Emerson, Daniel Fisher, John D. Fisher, Thomas Folsom, Charles Jarvis, Simeon Tucker, Hiram Watson and Thomas Webb.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending February 26; from the Health-Office Returns.

February 17.—William B. Sawyer, 17. 18th.—Child of Ezra Burleigh. 19th.—William Jones; Richard Kitson, 34; Mary Babbit, 58; Mary Morrison, 96; Hannah Smith. 20th.—Child of Ezekiel Cleasby; Peter McPherson, 35; ——— Clench; John Glenn, 36; ——— Wilber. 21st.—Ann Ayers, 56. 22d.—Elizabeth Cade, 56; Jeremiah Moore; ——— McKenny; Ann Harris, 32; E. H. H. Somy, 1 mo. 23d.—Robert Cannon, 43; Benjamin F. Barry, 3; Thomas Bailey, 3 mo; William Mason, 60; Meletiah Downs, 64; Mary G. Gray, 9 mo; Sarah Bell, 58. 24th.—Ann Jane Howard Child, 2; Thomas B. Dillaway, 3. 26th.—Ann Batchelder.

Typhus Fever, 1—Stillborn, 5—White Swelling, 1—Cancer, 1—Old Age, 1—Small-pox, (at Rainsford Island), 1—Inflammation of the Bowels, 2—Dropsy, 1—Fits, 2—Drowned, 1—Dropsy in the Head, 2—Consumption, 2—Teething, 1—Brain Fever, 1. City poor, 3.

DIED.—In Georgetown, S. C. Dr HENRY DENISON, a native of Goshen, Conn.

In Baltimore, on the evening of the 19th inst. after a painful and lingering illness, Dr EZRA GILLINGHAM.

At Holmes' Hole, very suddenly, Dr SILAS WEST, aged about 40.

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OBSERVATIONS.

AN ADDRESS,

By RUFUS WILLIAM BAILEY, A. M. Pittsfield, Ms.
(Concluded from page 170.)

Another peculiar qualification to render a physician acceptable and agreeable to the public, you will permit me to mention, is connected with his treatment of his professional brethren. I am aware I have here taken delicate ground, since I address an enlightened society of men, who may feel competent to define their own duties. But wise men will always profit by the reproaches of their enemies;—may I not hope, then, that the suggestions of a friend will not be useless? The ill natured remark is often made, that physicians are born to a mutual hatred; but we would rather say a professional ambition, honorable in itself, too often leads to low enmities.—We admire to see an honorable strife for mastery, but the influence and feeling of every man is involuntarily opposed to him who seeks his victory by maiming his antagonist, rather than by exerting himself. The only pre-eminence worthy the ambition of a professional man, is the victory of talent, of industry, of skill. If there be any circumstances when, more than at any other time, a man needs the safety that is in a "a multitude of counsellors," and the united efforts of all the power which can be enlisted, it is when his life is staked on the issue. When a man is sick, he sends for the "beloved physician;" but if he be dangerously ill, he wishes for additional counsel, and the tenderest feelings of the heart are violated, under the most sensitive circumstances, when the aid of talents, learning, principle, and professional skill, are excluded from the sick chamber on the ground of any personal or local jealousies. Physicians are in a sense the property of the public. When they offer themselves for patronage, they are not, like ordinary men in ordinary business, at liberty to decline the service to which they may be called, or perform it partially. They are depended on in matters which cannot be deferred. Great consequences are pending, and their services are pledged.—Having commenced, they are equally bound to sacrifice every private feeling, to the promotion of life and health. As soon as the responsibility of a doubtful case occurs, this responsibility should be divided.

Another duty, which physicians owe to one another, and also to families, is a caution in expressing their opinions when discordant. I was once called, in the discharge of my official duties, to a most afflictive scene of death. I found among the items, which mingled in the bitter cup of sorrow, drunk by a tender mother, was an opinion dropped by a physician, called late to give his advice, that *he*, if earlier called, should not have lost the patient. I found myself obliged to administer consolation by assuring the afflicted woman, that this opinion was manifestly partial, as well as cruel, since in every view we could take of the subject, the attending physician had equal claims to our confidence, and was certainly the best able to judge in the case.

Another point of character, in which a physician must be affected in an important degree before the tribunal of the public, is the *respect he pays to the dead*. On this subject I shall hazard a few remarks, without hesitation, because it is extensively agitated, and a degree of public sensibility is expressed on the subject, which must be heard. We demand of the physician that knowledge, which renders dissection of the dead absolutely necessary. The safety of the living demands it. Still the sanctuary of our dead must not be invaded. The demand of nature is loud and urgent, that the bodies of those we loved in life must be suffered to rest in their graves. It has, therefore, been made a subject of legislation, and severe penalties are appointed to guard the repose of the tomb. Nor can we admit the Grecian maxim, that the crime consists only in detection. The man who disregards public law and sentiment on this subject, is no other than a thief and a robber. He is guilty of a kind of sacrilege. And I have never known an instance of detection, which has not proved the ruin of the offender. It has forfeited to him the confidence of the public, driven him from practice, and usually from society. Aside from its moral turpitude, therefore, it is attended with present consequences sufficient to deter a reflecting man from the attempt. He must go as a thief under cover of the night; he must feel like a thief; he does the deed of a thief; and, if detected, he suffers like a thief. The duty of physicians, therefore, on this subject is plain. They must not rob our graves. Their moral and professional reputation is involved in it.

Still their anatomical rooms must be furnished. The public safety requires it. Public sentiment requires it. The law recognizes the necessity, and to the restrictions of the law, or at least of public opinion, the dissecting knife must be confined. We are aware that further provisions, however, are necessary to remove the temptation to crime, and perfect a profession so important to the common safety. This begins to be felt. And I am persuaded the arm of legislative power ought and will be employed to place in the hands of medical men this most necessary means of knowledge, to an extent adequate to the nature of the subject, and at the same time in a manner to meet, and guard all our most sensitive feelings on the subject. Let the crimes which, by common consent, exclude their perpetrators from the pale of society, be attended with the additional penalty of dissection after death, and the object will be partially answered, the feelings of friends properly guarded, the dignity of the law supported, while an additional terror will be held up to evil doers. And it is well worthy the inquiry of an enlightened government, as the guardians of the public weal, whether there are not other provisions practicable, which may effectually meet the demands of the case in the protection of all that is sacred in individual feeling, and in the lawful employment of all necessary means for the common safety.—Having thus expressed myself, I am happy to add my perfect confidence, that the principles

adopted and the measures pursued by this institution are, and always have been, such as to secure to our dead a quiet and undisturbed rest.*

Finally, we may say, the physician must be a man who can feel a lively interest in all that concerns the welfare of men. He meets to do them service between both worlds. How important, then, he should feel for the *soul* as well as the *body*. How important he should be able to drop on the anxious ear of the dying man, that word which he most needs to hear. Cicero has said that none but a good man can be an orator. I would use the term in a stricter sense than Cicero could comprehend it, when I say every physician ought to be a good man. He performs some of the tenderest, most eventful, most religious duties.

Let my physician, then, be a man who has, as a foundation, the characteristics of true greatness; who has cherished and cultivated all that can exalt and dignify human nature, that he may

* The most important discoveries and improvements in medicine, have proceeded from the knowledge obtained by actual dissections. Had this never been permitted, the science would, at this day, have been in its infancy. The blood would have flowed untraced. The various organs would have performed their functions by a kind of mysterious action, and when deranged, would have been left to sink unaided. Instead of this, the skilful physician, when he finds us in distress, is often able to perceive at once the nature and seat of the disease, and to apply appropriate remedies for our immediate and grateful relief. No man can do this, however, without a tolerable acquaintance with the mechanical structure of the human frame, and an accurate knowledge of the nicer organs. This accuracy must be derived, not merely from reading, but from observation, from actual dissection. If so—then is there no principle of philanthropy which will prompt a man to a personal sacrifice, for the promotion of so important a good? Can a man be persuaded to die for his country—and is there no patriotism nor humanity, which can induce him to give his clay for the benefit of his country, of the world? We make this appeal merely to prepare the way for another remark:—There are principles operating in the human heart, and exhibiting themselves in human conduct, which may triumph over a narrow prejudice, and which will act on liberal principles of humanity.

We cannot regret that dissections have been permitted, when we contemplate the immense benefits which they have brought to mankind. Let us not then demand of the physician that knowledge, the means of which we deny him. But it is not only what has been known which he ought to labor after, but what may be known. Many important discoveries may still be reserved to elevate the names and characters of future anatomists to an equality with Hippocrates, Harvey and Pecquet. Discoveries in the economy of the animal frame have been gradual; and who can say there are not still others to be made as important as any heretofore effected? Every view we can take of the subject, is calculated to deepen our impression of its importance. Let the laws, then, at once guard our sensibilities, and seek our safety. These sensibilities demand that the arm of the law hold and confine the wretch who profanely robs our graves. This safety demands that the honorable and humane physician be furnished with the necessary means of knowledge in anatomical dissections.

In England, where the laws to prevent sepulchral depredations are very severe, and where the gallows furnishes an unusual quota of subjects, the sentence of the law, which takes the life of the criminal, consigns his body to the surgeons for dissection. In France, the laws afford more liberal means to the anatomist, and as a consequence, the medical profession is repaying the community in the eminent advancement of the science.

be a man whom I can confide in and love when I am sick; who can administer to my soul when he can no longer help the body; who can take me up in prayer, in that trembling and awful moment, when my tongue shall cease to speak what I feel, and my flesh and heart shall fail; and who, when he can do no more, can commend me to the great Physician, and carry me by faith to the portals of the skies, where I hope to revive again, and experience no more sickness, nor sorrow, nor death. Then, having cultivated and employed my powers while on earth, having sought and used the best means of prolonging life, I can feel, when I can no longer speak, that I have done my duty, and finished my course, and can lie down in the grave peacefully, till the resurrection.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

REMARKS ON THE PREVAILING EPIDEMIC OF THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1825.

This affection is like that which has appeared several times among us under the name of INFLUENZA, being an acute catarrh with more or less fever. It sometimes appears to arise from "catching cold," in persons much exposed to the weather of this disagreeable month. It is that which the European Physicians of two hundred years ago, called the *Febris Catarrhalis Epidemica*, and what Sydenham called the *Tussis Epidemica*; others added to it the epithet of *semi-pestilential*; and some have thought that the pestilence mentioned by Homer, which, within the space of nine days, spread itself over all the Grecian quarters, was an epidemic of this kind.

Some remarks in your 41st No. might lead people to look to our "open winter," for the cause of this very general distemper; but it has occurred in England and in this country in the warm months of summer, and tropical climates are not free from it. But when it occurs here in February, it carries off a great number of aged people, with symptoms of *peripneumonia NOTHA*. Consult the annual register of deaths, and you will find that more old people die between the 10th of February and the 10th of March, than in any other thirty days in the year; and when they are seized with this catarrhal fever, they suffer severely, and, if in a previous bad state of health, many of them sink under it, more especially in

In some of our states, the bodies of all who die under sentence of the law, are given to the use of the surgeons. In this state, the selectmen of each town have a discretionary power to remove, or permit to be removed, any body from the grave. Although some have supposed this law had a reference to occasional removals for dissections, we believe it was rather intended for the safe keeping of the dead, and for the accommodation of friends who might desire such a removal, or for the public convenience and safety. At any rate, the town authorities would, in few instances, exercise their power beyond this.

It is believed that a judicious law, framed with a reference to this subject, might find other instances, in which the public interest and safety might place in the hands of physicians, all the necessary means of knowledge. In England and in France, it is often the case, that the living give to the surgeon a fee of their bodies, to be claimed at the moment of death; and in many instances this must be said to be the best use they ever made of them. We do not say the law should recognize such contracts, nor forbid them;—still, we believe there are practicable points, on which the law might reach this important subject, in all its extent, and in a manner by which the feelings we cherish, might be still more sacredly guarded.

this month. I have found it so for the last half century. It may be from there being more cold, combined with moisture, in the month of February, than in any other of the annual cycle.

Without pretending to account for the causes of epidemics, I would only remark the fact, that in the time already specified, people generally are more liable to affections of the mucous membrane of the head, throat and lungs, than at any other season; and it seems to be more owing to going from a cold into a warmer atmosphere, than from a warm one into a colder. Be that as it may, it alters not the *methodus medendi*. The suddenness with which many are seized, distinguishes this epidemic from that catarrh which is merely the effects of cold. Those who have a very copious discharge from the nose and throat, soonest get well; so do those who have spontaneous discharges of black bilious dejections, or whose renal secretions are abundant and high-colored, or who sweat profusely a night or two after the seizure. Keeping uniformly warm, and the use of cooling liquids with repeated laxatives, soon terminates the complaint. But sometimes by imprudence in eating and drinking, or great exposure to the weather, especially in the night (as often happens to stage-drivers and hackney coachmen), the disorder changes to *peripneumonia*, combined with a violent affection of the head, sometimes producing frenzy.

But the most dangerous of all, is that which occurs in aged people, especially in such as have suffered under chronic complaints in the thorax, when the disorder assumes all the characters of the *peripneumonia NOTHA*. It is this insidious disease that carries off so many old people in the month of February. It is very rare that a man seventy years of age has the *peripneumonia vera*, which requires copious bleeding. This affection, which was called by physicians of the last century, *bastard peripneumony*, hardly ever admits of bleeding, and, what was called, the *antiphlogistic regimen*. It differs from the *true peripneumonia* of early life, in having less acute pain in the chest, but much more in the head, which seems as if it would burst, especially when they cough. There is a sensation of a great load about the region of the heart and pit of the stomach, with a loss of distinction of tastes between one food and another. There is a lassitude, and great depression of spirits, with inclination to vomit, a giddiness of the head, and sometimes a heaviness, bordering on stupor, with a dull glazed eye, which symptoms are observed to increase after bleeding. The blood when drawn, appears of a tender texture. Difficult and perplexing symptoms frequently occur in old people. The distress of breathing and anxiety are in them so great as to induce the practitioner to give a temporary relief by bleeding. But while this operation relieves the stifling oppression of the lungs, it depresses still more the already impaired energy of the brain, when a wandering or imperfect delirium supervenes, and the patient sinks under it. In those who recover, the amendment is generally slow, and very rarely perfect.

In people who die of this insidious disorder, the lungs are found hard and heavy, like liver, without any unequivocal signs of acute inflammation. The arterial, propelling, or sustaining system, is here weakened; the balance being destroyed between the lymphatic, or, if you please, phlegmatic and sanguiferous systems. Sydenham, after

hinting this idea, says that he had found, from the most accurate observations, that the practice of bleeding (and he was remarkable for his free use of the lancet), was very prejudicial, especially if the patients were aged, or even past the prime of life. Boerhaave adopts the same idea; and my own observation has confirmed their doctrine.

There is something in the pulse of this *spurious* lung fever, or *peripneumony*, which is apt to mislead the young and inexperienced practitioner (and these remarks are made for such only). The arteries often beat full, as if the blood had a disposition to burst their coats, to relieve them from a dangerous oppression; and yet the other symptoms which mark the true *synocha*, are absent. The fever is of the *synochus* type, tending more and more to the typhoid character; as is manifested by the state of the stomach, urine, and dark alvine discharges, and the look of the tongue.

When the distress and agony seem principally confined to the *præcordia*, threatening suffocation, and the practitioner knows that breathing a vein will give a degree of relief, the taking away a very small quantity of blood can hardly be avoided; but he should extend his view beyond the lungs to the encephalon, lest he destroy the elasticity of the main-spring of the whole, which is always naturally weakened at the advanced age of seventy years.

Once in consultation with a pretty aged country practitioner, who never read much of any thing, I found it difficult to convey to him the idea of the certain destruction of the human frame from directly opposite causes—as in the two *peripneumonias*—until I told him that a formidable *freshet* sometimes swelled the stream to that degree as to carry every thing over the dam, mill and all, unless it was prevented by some drain; and that there was another state of things almost as bad, when, by reason of a drought, the waters were so low as not to be able to turn the great wheel an inch, in consequence of which all the subordinate wheels stopped; and that our best judgment was called upon to obviate the evils between an overwhelming violence and an equally destructive stagnation.

I would only remark farther, that there is a state or condition in the generality of aged people, which, on a given accident, disposes them more to *anthrax* than to *phlegmon*; and it is this state which predisposes them, under such an epidemic as that of which we have spoken, to the danger of the *peripneumonia NOTHA*.

February, 1825.

EXPERIENCE.

CURE FOR RHEUMATISM.

Margaret Walker, the industrious relict of a poor shoemaker, in a highland parish, was left to bring up a small family—that is, a number of young children, on very slender means. In harvest, besides the usual labors in the field, she employed part of her time very profitably in gathering nuts. Her success in this last mentioned occupation was so great, that on her death-bed, along with many other excellent instructions, she enjoined peculiar attention to it on her children. Apprehensive, however, lest all her advices and example might be forgotten, she requested that a few nuts might be placed under the turf along with her; hoping that a hazel bush over her grave would act as a remembrancer of her industrious habits and her dying com-

mands. In a fine October night, the second after the remains of poor Maggie were consigned to the dust, two fellows indulging a propensity to which the Highlanders were said to be naturally addicted, formed a plan for lifting one of the minister's wedders. One of the men entered the sheep park; the other took his station on the church-yard wall, to observe and give notice of interruption; but, tired of sitting idle, he bethought him of Maggie's nuts, dug up the bag in which they were tied, and regaining his post, commenced eating them.

The scene now shifts to the Manse parlour. The minister was laboring under his annual attack of rheumatism, the door burst open with unwonted violence, and in rushed the gaunt figure of Donald Dhu the beadle; his grizzling grey hair bristling like "the quills upon the fretful porcupine," and his grim visage wrinkled into all the expressions of genuine terror—"Oh, sir, oh, sir," vociferates this personage, "she's up, she's up,—Maggie Shoemaker's up, and crackin' her pockey o' nuts down by the kirk-yard dyke! "Is that all?" interrupted his master, readjusting himself in the comfortable posture from which he had been started—"Silly old man! I had hoped, considering the manifold advantages you enjoy under my ministry, and the many promises you have made to discredit such foolish superstition, that you would invent no more ghost stories to alarm the neighbors and disturb the family." "Ou ay," responded Donald, "ou ay, indee I, sir, I said I wadna mistak an outlyin' quey for a gauger's ghaist agin, after the fricht I gat in spring; but dear me, sir, this canna be a quey, ye ken, sittin' on a dyke and crackin' nuts; and as sure as I hae the richt use o' my een and my lugs, I baith saw and hear—"

The clergyman regretted exceedingly, he said, that his unfortunate rheumatism prevented him from going down to the church-yard and convincing him of the deception. "Hout," said Donald, "wrap yourself weel up, it's a braw moon-light night, tak your bible in your han', and I'll hurl ye down cannily in the wheel-barrow—its late, an' naeboddy'll ken."

Of course this proposal was indignantly rejected; till at length the beadle, who was determined to maintain his point, insinuated his master's secret conviction that his statement was true. This was too much to be borne; so it was resolved that Donald, being a stout Highlander, should carry the minister on his shoulders, sufficiently near to be satisfied of the phantom's reality. "*Nemo omnibus horis sapit.*" [No man is wise at all times.] Forth they sallied, each resolutely bent on triumphing over the other. "What's yon?" said Donald, after they had proceeded a little way in silence "heard ye nocht, sir—eh?" "It's but the Corry" [Corry-vrecken, a whirlpool so called], replied the minister, "'Tis half tide in the sound." The beadle grumbled an unwilling assent: nor had the last growl died away, ere he again disturbed the night breezes, but in a low whisper—"There she's now, deuk at her white windin' sheet rinnin' round the graves!" "It's only the grey mare," exclaimed the minister, "that you have forgot to stable."

Every whisper of the wind, in short, the beadle constructed into an "unearthly groan;" every straggling moon-beam into a wandering

spirit, till he at last succeeded in extorting the confession of his master, that he certainly fancied he heard something not particularly unlike cracking nuts. A cloud in the mean time obscured the moon, and rendered it necessary to approach much nearer the spectre than Donald Dhu cared for—till at length, when he had come to a dead set, and was beginning to articulate the minister's refutation, as he pointed toward the object of his fears, "Yonder she's uow!"—the sheep lifter, who had seen something approach, and naturally taking it for his friend with the wedder, advanced towards them, and in a constrained unnatural voice, half-whispered, half-spoke the appalling question—"Is he fat?"—"No that ill ava," screamed Donald in consternation, "but sic as he is, hae—tak him!" He heaved his burden most unceremoniously in the ditch, and as fast as his legs could carry him fled to the manse. The terrified minister recovered his feet, sped with inconceivable celerity in the same direction, overtook, and in attempting to pass, overturned his no less terrified precursor, who, concluding himself in the skeleton fangs of the ruthless Maggie, yelled out a prayer for mercy, and shrieked in all the agony of terror, that "he was na the minister but only the minister's man." The worthy clergyman has had no return of his rheumatism since.

NEW BOOK WANTED.

A strange thing indeed, in this age of book-making, when every man who can write intelligibly, finds a printer—every printer, a purchaser—and so few purchasers either time or inclination to read. Yet strange as it may seem, the medical public is very much in want of a work which shall contain the titles of *American* medical books, with a short sketch of the manner in which each subject is treated, and the general character and value of the work. The writings of our Physicians and Surgeons are sufficiently numerous, various, and useful, to render something like a guide and index to them, necessary for the medical student. The ignorance of the Faculty, in this country, in American medical literature, is much to be deplored; and if some physician of taste, judgment and learning, would spend the leisure of a few years in forming a work on the plan we have proposed, he would have the satisfaction—not only of teaching the world what it owes to American Physicians and Surgeons—but also of greatly increasing that obligation.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE.

Perhaps there has never been a period when the influence of the peculiar constitution of the atmosphere, for the time being, was more universally or more plainly developed than at present. If a person is exposed to any one of those innumerable causes of disease which are ever surrounding us, the effect is uniformly an affection of the *throat*. In ordinary times, there is a great variety in the diseases of any period; but now there appears but one strong and almost universal tendency.—This fact cannot be attributed to individual idiosyncrasy, or the nature of *exciting* causes, but exclusively to the great *predisposing* cause, which is the peculiar constitution of the atmosphere.

ALTOGETHER ACCIDENTAL.

You have heard a sick man complain of having taken an *accidental* cold, which brought on

the disease under which he labors, or a maimed cripple tell that he *accidentally* fell from a tree and broke his limb. Millions of similar cases exist; and did you ever inquire minutely into these matters, and ascertain what kind of an agent this Accident is generally discovered to be? One of my school-fellows lost his life by plunging on a feeble horse into a rapid and dangerous stream; they wrote "accidentally drowned," upon his tomb stone. Some years ago, a merchant of our village left his store at evening while the stove was almost red hot, and combustibles were strewed thick around it; the store was consumed, and the villagers all said "it was an accident." My neighbor's corn crop was destroyed the year before last by cattle. He had neglected a breach in his fence, time after time; the cattle at last entered there, destruction followed, and his neighbors condoled with him on account of his "accidental loss." And it is but a short time since my friend B—visited the great La Fayette parade in Philadelphia, taking with him a hundred dollars, merely to "provide against accidents." His pocket was ripped open and he came back without the money; it was some consolation however, to hear all the people call it "an accident;" and the minister even applied to the case the healing appellation of "a dispensation of providence." The truth is, in all of those cases, it was their *carelessness* that brought on the individuals the evils they suffered.—*Old Col. Mem.*

We were never more forcibly reminded of the truth of these observations, than by the following relation recently published in the Cincinnati Emporium under the head of "Medical Accident."

A Miss H— of our city, designing to take a large dose of common salts, on Monday morning last, swallowed instead, in a state of solution, between two and three ounces of Salt Petre, *Nitras Potassæ*.

She was immediately made sensible of the mistake, by an excruciating pain and distress at the pit of her stomach.

Her mother called on an apothecary, living next door, to inquire her danger, and what was to be done. He advised to send instantly for a physician, and administered ten grains of Tartar Emetic.

Dr Smith soon came, and considering her agony, and that the emetic was little disposed or likely to occasion an ejection; he promptly employed his excellent apparatus, consisting of a gum elastic tube and exhausting syringe, the former of which he passed through the mouth into the stomach, and with the latter soon introduced a considerable quantity of tepid water; which, together with the solution of salt petre and tartar emetic, he again extracted. This process was continued till the fluid drawn from the stomach was as tasteless as when thrown into it. The whole quantity of water employed, within a few minutes, amounted to about four gallons. After the stomach was thoroughly cleansed and emptied, he introduced three or four ounces of sweet oil, and withdrew the tube.

The operation was less painful than the effects of an active emetic, and proved completely successful. We have related the above case with the double object of inciting people generally to more caution, and also to recommend the remedy employed.

Salt Petre is an article in such common use, and so nearly resembles Glauber's salts in its appearance, that instances similar in kind, though happily not in degree, often occur. A small quantity is generally followed by a long continued disorder of the stomach, and is frequently fatal. It should never be laid by without the paper enclosing it being marked, in legible characters, SALT PETRE.

VARIETIES.

A HUMOROUS DESCRIPTION OF MORTALITY.—(Said to be written by the late Jonathan Swift, D. D. Dean of St Patrick's, Dublin).—As you have been pleased very generously to honor me with your friendship, I think myself obliged to throw off all disguise, and discover to you my real circumstances; which I shall with all the openness and freedom imaginable. You will be surprised at the beginning of my story, and think the whole a banter; but you may depend upon its being actually true, and, if need were, I could bring the parson of the parish to testify the same. You must know, then, that at this present time I live in a little sorry house* of clay, that stands upon the waste as other cottages do; and, what is worst of all, am liable to be turned out at a minute's warning. It is a sort of copyhold tenure, and the custom of the manor is this: for the first thirty years I am to pay no rent, but only do suit and service, and attend upon the courts,† which are kept once a week, and sometimes oftener; for twenty years after this, I am to pay a rose ‡ every year; and further than this, during the remainder of life, I am to pay a tooth (which you'll say is a whimsical sort of an acknowledgment), every two or three years, or oftener if it should be demanded; and if I have nothing more to pay, "Out," must be the word, and it will not be long ere my person will be seized.—I might have had my tenement, such as it is, upon much better terms, if it had not been for a fault of my great grand-father; he and his wife || together, with the advice of an ill-neighbor, § were concerned in robbing an orchard, ¶ belonging to the lord ** of the manor, and forfeited this great privilege, to my sorrow I am sure; but, however, I must do as well as I can, and shall endeavor to keep my house in tolerable repair. My kitchen, †† where I dress my victuals, is a comical little roundish sort of a room, somewhat like an oven; it answers much to the purpose it was designed, and that's enough. My garrets ‡‡ (or rather cock-lofts) are very indifferently furnished; but they are rooms which few people regard now, unless to lay lumber in. The worst part of the story is, it costs me a great deal every year in thatching, |||| for, as my building stands pretty much exposed to the wind and weather, the covering, you know, must decay faster than ordinary; however, I make shift to rub on in my little way, and when rent-day §§ comes, I must see and discharge it as well as I can.—Whenever I am turned out, I understand my lodge, or what you please to call it, descends upon a low-spirited creeping family, ¶¶ remarkable for nothing but being instrumental in advancing the reputation of a great man in Abchurch-lane; (*) but be this as it will, I have one snug apartment (†) that lies on the left side of my house, which I reserve for my chiefest friends: it is very warm, where you'll always be a welcome guest; and you may depend upon a lodging as long as the edifice shall be in the tenure and occupation of J. S.

P. S. This room that I value so much, was set on fire (‡) once, and my whole building in danger of being demolished, by an unlucky boy (||) throwing his lighted torch in at the window, the casement happening to be open.—I must not forget to tell you, that the person (§) who is sent about to gather our quit-rents be-

* His body. † Divine service. ‡ The color of his cheek. || Adam and Eve. § The Devil. ¶ Paradise. ** Jehovah. †† His stomach. ‡‡ His head. |||| Clothes. §§ His death. ¶¶ The worms. (*) Probably alluding to some physician or quack doctor, resident in that place, who might at that time be famous for curing those vermin in the body. (†) The heart. (‡) By love. (||) Cupid. (§) Time. This description is elegant, and the slighting and abusing time, the teeth of time, and man's abuse of that precious jewel, even

fore-mentioned, is a queer, little, old, round-shouldered fellow, with scarcely any hair upon his head; which grotesque figure, together with his invidious employments, makes him generally slighted, and often times much abused. He has a prodigious stomach of his own; whatever he gets, it goes all into his unrighteous maw, which makes a fool of the ostrich for digestion; he is continually exercising his grinders upon one thing or another, and yet he is as poor as a rake, and by that means goes so light that he is often at a man's heels before he thinks of him; he is very absolute and ready in executing his commission; and has a relation, one Tide, (¶) a Waterman, that is full as saucy and peremptory as himself. If you meet with either of them, and cry out "Stop a little," the devil a moment they'll stay.

COUNTRY COLLEGE IN NEW-YORK.—The College of Physicians and Surgeons in the Western District of N. York, which is established at Fairfield, in Herkimer co. opens annually on the first Tuesday of October, and the Lectures are as follows:—On Surgery, by JOSEPH WHITE, M. D.—Midwifery, by WESTEL WILLOUGHBY, M. D.—Chemistry and Materia Medica, by JAMES HADLEY, M. D.—Anatomy and Physiology, by JAMES M'NAUGHTON, M. D.—Practice of Physic and Medical Jurisprudence, by T. ROMEYN BECK, M. D. The course continues sixteen weeks. The number of students attending lectures at this institution, is 120. A catalogue of their names and places of residence has been published, and also of those authors which are preferred by the Professors, and which will be most advantageously perused by the students while attending the lectures. We acknowledge the receipt of a printed copy of the Lecture, introductory to Dr Beck's course, and shall probably present our readers with some remarks on it in a future number of our paper.

USEFUL RECEIPT. *Bread made of Iceland Moss, with Flour.*—Of late years, Iceland moss has been used (either alone or mixed with flour) in the composition of bread. The authorities of Saxony published a report on the subject, in which they stated, that seven pounds of the meal boiled with fourteen times its quantity of water, and baked in this state with fifty-nine and a half pounds of flour, produced 111 1-2 lbs. of good household bread. Nearly all the Iceland moss collected in Germany, is sent to England, where it is used in brewing, and in the composition of ship biscuit, as it is not attacked by worms, and suffers little by the action of sea water.

APPLE BREAD.—A very light, pleasant bread, is made in France by a mixture of apples and flour, in the proportion of one pound of the former to two of the latter. The usual quantity of yeast is employed as in making common bread, and is beat with flour and warm pulp of the apples after they have boiled, and the dough is then considered as set; it is then put up in a proper vessel, is allowed to rise for eight or twelve hours, and then baked into long loaves. Very little water is requisite; none, if the apples are very fresh.

FRUIT OUT OF SEASON.—The Darien, (Geo.) Gazette, of 14th December, says, "A Mulberry Tree before our door is now yielding ripe fruit, and a friend of ours on the Hopetown plantation, plucked a ripe damson plum from his trees on the 9th inst."

HORSERADISH.—One drachm of the fresh-scraped root of this plant, infused with four ounces of water in a close vessel for two hours, and made into a syrup with double its weight of sugar, is an approved recipe for removing hoarseness. A tea-spoonful of this has often proved suddenly effectual.

TAPE WORM.—Capt. Bagnold has found, that in hares and rabbits killed in November, a tape worm is found in the intestines; and that his pointers and spaniels, employed in killing them, were afterwards affected by tape worm. He cured the dogs by feeding them for ten days on potatoes. It seems that the dogs were fed on the paunches of the killed rabbits.

when he is at his heels, i. e. death, reminds me of a line I have some where seen, "Every moment of time is a monument of God's mercy." (¶) The author no doubt had the old proverb in his thoughts, viz. "Time and Tide wait for no man."

ONIONS.—A few fresh walnuts or raw leaves of parsley, eaten immediately after dinner, will speedily remove that disagreeable taint which always infects the breath after partaking of onions, garlic, or shallots.

EGGS—may be preserved by covering them with a coat of gum arabic, and then imbedding them in charcoal.

BRUNSWICK HOSPITAL.—We understand that a bill is now before the Legislature of Maine, to incorporate a general hospital in the town of Brunswick.

Copy of an advertisement from an inoculating *Weaver* in the west of England:—

"I George Ridley near Stroud in the county of Gloster Broadweaver at the desier of peepel hereabout do give Noutis That I have Inockilated these too Seasons past between 2 and 300 for the Smale Pox, and but too or three of them died—A Many peepel be a feard of the thing but evaiith it is No More than Scrattin a bit of a haul in theier Yarm A pushin in a peece of Skaped rag dipt in Sum of the Pocky Matter of a Child under the Distemper—That Every body in the Nashion may be sarved I Will God Willin Undertake to Inockillat them with the pervizer they will take too Purges before hand and loose a little blud away, for half a Crown a head; And I will be bould to say Noo body goes beyond me.

"NB. Poor Volk at a Shillin a head but all Must Pay for the Purgin."

When Sir Walter Farquhar was created a baronet, a friend sent him a volume of Shakspeare, containing the first part of Henry IV; in which he had doubled down the page where Falstaff soliloquises over the dead body of Sir Walter Blount, and with his pencil had scored under these words:—"Can honor mend an arm? No;—Or set a leg? No;—Honor hath no skill in Surgery, then? No.—I like not such grinning Honor as Sir Walter hath."

The Hon. JOHN BROOKS, M. D. late Governor of Massachusetts, departed this life at his residence in Medford, about 2 o'clock, on Tuesday morning last, aged 73 years. This venerable and deeply lamented Physician, continued the active duties of his profession until confined by the Influenza, which terminated an earthly career most honorable and useful, and opened to him that light which smiles on the last moments of the good. Notwithstanding the faithful manner in which he has uniformly executed the important political trusts committed to him, he continued to preside at the meetings of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and in the more private walks of life to remove the pain and suffering of all around him, and he felt amply compensated for these services by the love and respect of his numerous friends, and the consciousness of doing good. No one can regard the last years of the life of Dr Brooks, without saying in his heart—Oh for the old age of a christian scholar!

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending March 5th; from the Health-Office Returns.

February 26.—Peter McNamara, 30; Hannah Hoven, 19; William Webb, 38; — Ayers, 3 weeks; Mary N. Judson, 21. 27th.—Mary McGowen, 12 mo; Cornelius D. Peterson, 2; — Hall; — Hardin; — Johnson; Rhoda Mason, 24; — Erving; John Tucker, 72. 28th.—William Harris, 48; — Thompson, 4 hours; William Henry Kanna, 19 mo. March 1.—John B. Payson, 21 mo. 2d.—Emma Darby, 18. 3d.—Risdon Darracott, 14 mo; William Cambridge, 19. 4th.—Cordelia Moore, 10 mo. 5th.—Lyman Ellison; John Carroll.

Consumption, 5—Typhus Fever, 1—Infantile, 1—Small-pox (at Rainsford Island), 1—Childbed, 1—Stillborn, 4—Fits, 1—Paralytic, 1—Dropsy in the Head, 1—Cancer, 1—Lung-Fever, 2. City poor, 2.

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BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

"NON EST VIVERE, SED VALERE VITA."

VOL. II.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1825.

No. 44.

OBSERVATIONS.

On the Natural History and Medical use of the Leech; with some account of the Mode of managing Leeches, as well as of applying them, and Stopping the Bleeding from their Bites.

1. OF THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF LEECHES.

There are many kinds of leeches, although very few of them are used in medicine: indeed, some of the species would seem not to have the power of piercing the human skin so as to draw blood; and in some of them at least, the mouth is peculiarly small, and the animal is not capable of taking hold of the skin, with so extensive a grasp, as we see in the common medicinal leech.

The *Hirudo medicinalis* or common leech, was the one usually employed for medical purposes in England; but from the improvements in draining, and perhaps from leeches being used more frequently than formerly, the English market is now principally supplied from abroad, and especially from France; the foreign leech being somewhat different in appearance from the true English leech, but equally useful as a medical agent. The *hirudo troctina*—as Dr Johnson calls it—is however frequently used in medicine. The *hirudo sanguisuga* or horse leech, is not generally used, but we are ignorant for what reason.*

As these three are the only English species which are likely to be used in medicine, a tabular and comparative description of their distinctive marks shall be inserted.

HIRUDO MEDICINALIS.	HIRUDO SANGUISUGA.	HIRUDO TROCTINA.
<i>Upper Surface.</i> Depressed and blackish, with 6 longitudinal yellow lines, some say 4, the 2 inner ones being interrupted by black spots.†	<i>Upper Surface.</i> Elongated and of a brownish green color.	<i>Upper Surface.</i> Elongated and brown, with circular yellow lines and brown spots.
<i>Under Surface.</i> Ash colored with yellow spots.	<i>Under Surface.</i> Paler green with black spots.	<i>Under Surface.</i> Yellowish green with a yellowish lateral margin & black spots.
<i>Where found.</i> In marshes, pools and ditches.	<i>Where found.</i> In marshes, pools and ditches.	<i>Where found.</i> In rivers, often adhering to fish.

Each of these species of leech has ten eyes, arranged in a semicircle over the top of the nose, the lowest eye on each side being further separated than the rest from each other. The other English leeches have eight eyes or less.

* Dr Duncan, in the Edinburgh Dispensary, says, that the horse leech is often used with advantage: indeed, as the only apparent peculiarity in the horse leech is that it is more voracious than the other kinds of leech, it ought to be the more valuable in practice, unless in cases where very small leeches are desirable.

† The number of these longitudinal lines is not material, for neither of the other species have any longitudinal lines. In the *Hirudo Troctina* they are transverse, and in the *Sanguisuga* there are neither transverse or longitudinal lines.

2. OF THE HABITS OF LEECHES.

The color of leeches seems to be in some degree dependant on the soil in which they are found; but the spots and lines are permanent, and may be depended on as forming a distinctive character for the animal.

In winter, leeches live in deep water; but in summer they sun themselves in the shallows.—In severe weather, and in summer when the pools are in danger of drying up, they bury themselves at a considerable depth in the soil, leaving a small hole which communicates with their subterranean abode.

Leeches appear above ground again in April, or at the end of March; but if the weather is cold or cloudy, they confine themselves to the mud, as is also the case in rainy or windy weather, or when the water is agitated. "Just before a thunder storm," says Dr Johnson, "they commonly come up to the surface, and this the leech gatherers find a good time for collecting them."

As connected with the habit of leeches, it may be remarked that they make very good barometers. They remain motionless at the bottom of the vessel when the weather is about to be serene and pleasant; before rain they come to the surface of the water, and remain there till the return of fine weather; before high winds they will continue to move about the water with great swiftness; before thunder and rain they will be found above the water and apparently agitated; before frost they remain at the bottom; whilst during snow or rain they are seen motionless in the neck of the vessel.

The fluids of animals form the proper food of leeches. The horse leech, however, is very voracious, and takes large quantities of solid food; such as worms, the larvæ of aquatic insects, &c. or, in short, any sort of animal food, and even the weaker of their own tribe if very hungry. They have been observed to eat all the flesh from the bones of frogs, lizards, fish, &c. Other leeches will equally destroy these animals, but they suck the blood only, without devouring the flesh.

In one case, a medicinal leech, which had been swallowed by a horse leech, was ejected alive after remaining in the stomach for three days. In other cases the swallowed leeches were found to be in a digested state; but digestion goes on very slowly even in the horse leech.

It seems to be an error to suppose that leeches when cut asunder, have the power of regenerating themselves. The pieces live for a long time, but they remain unchanged.

Leeches are hermaphrodites, but it is not yet determined whether they are oviparous or viviparous. Some authors think both. They are very long-lived; living, perhaps, for 20 years.

3. ON THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF LEECHES.

Leeches consist of about one hundred circular rings, and they possess the power of expanding the intermediate skin during the act of progression. Internally they are mainly formed of a series of cells or stomachs, which communicate with the gullet, and are arranged on each side of the alimentary canal, and of the large nerve or

blood-vessel. Below, these cells communicate with the intestine, which opens on the back of the animal near its last ring.*

There is also a series of oval bodies running down each side of this animal, and communicating with each other. These bodies are supposed to be glands, for the secretion of the slimy matter with which the leech is covered.

The mouth is armed by three sharp cartilaginous teeth, which meet at equal angles in a common centre, and form, when forced into the flesh by a repeated oscillatory motion, the radiated wound which is seen in leech bites. The teeth remain in the wound during the whole time of suction.

The true skin or cutis of the leech is covered by a cuticle or scarf-skin, which is shed about every four or five days.

(To be continued.)

PREPARATION OF CAOUTCHOUC.

Mr T. Hacock has proceeded, by some process,—the result of a long investigation, but which he has not published,—in working caoutchouc with great facility and readiness. It is cast, as we understand, into large ingots or cakes, and being cut with a wet knife into leaves or sheets, about an eighth or a tenth of an inch in thickness, can then be applied to almost any purpose to which the properties of the material render it fit. The caoutchouc thus prepared, is more flexible and adhesive than that which is generally found in the shops, and is worked with singular facility. Recent sections made with a sharp knife or scissors, when brought together and pressed, adhere so firmly as to resist rupture as strongly as any other part; so that if two sheets be laid together and cut round, the mere act of cutting joins the edges, and a little pressure on them makes a perfect bag of one piece of substance. The adhesion of the substance in those parts where it is not required, is entirely prevented by rubbing them with a little flour, or other substance in fine powder. In this way flexible tubes, catheters, &c. are prepared. The tubes intended for experiments on gases, and where occasion might require they should sustain considerable internal pressure, are made double, and have a piece of twine twisted spirally round between the two. This, therefore, is imbedded in the caoutchouc, and, at the same time that it allows of any extension in length of the tube, prevents its expanding laterally. The caoutchouc is, in this state, exceedingly elastic. Bags made of it, in the way just described, have been expanded, by having air forced into them, until the caoutchouc was quite transparent; and, when expanded by hydrogen, they were so light as to form balloons, with considerable ascending power; the hydrogen, however, gradually escapes,

* Some authors say the leech has no natural termination of this kind; but other circumstances show that the anatomy of leeches is still very defective. The three teeth, according to some, are each formed of many small teeth, and it is probably so, the saw universal cutting instrument.

perhaps through the pores of this thin film of caoutchouc. On expanding the bags in this way, the junctions yielded like the other parts, and ultimately almost disappeared. When cut thin, or when extended, this substance forms excellent washers, or collars for stop-cocks, very little pressure being sufficient to render them perfectly tight. Leather has also been coated on one surface with the caoutchouc; and without being at all adhesive, or having any particular odour, is perfectly water-tight. Before caoutchouc was thus worked, it was often observed how many uses it might in such a case be applied to: now that it is so worked, how few the cases are in which persons are induced to use it.

ULCERATION OF THE TEETH.

Ulceration of the teeth is preceded by inflammation, which is more or less acute. When the inflammation runs high, the face becomes much swollen, sore and painful, and mastication is performed with difficulty. The periosteum, or membrane that confines the tooth, and surrounds it in its socket, appears to be the principal seat of this disease. This membrane suppurates, and the pus or matter forces its way out, between the tooth and gum. It is not uncommon in this disease, for the matter to work its way through the jaw and cheek, destroying the jaw, and forming a foul ulcer on the face, discharging the sanious matter and excoriating the face over which it passed, giving it the appearance of having been burnt. This disease, when left to itself, often communicates the disorder to the other teeth, and several of them are destroyed, together with a portion of the jaw. Gum boils or eruptions of the gums, frequently precede this disease or are its termination. This disease sometimes originates in a destruction of the gums and alveolar processes from the accumulation of tartar.

When this is the case, the disease may be cured, if taken seasonably, by removing the tartar and washing the gums with the tincture of myrrh, or a strong decoction of white oak bark. Dentists are seldom called upon in this disease, until it has proceeded so far as to destroy the periosteum. When this is the case, it is too late to save the tooth, and it only remains to extract it and heal the ulcer. When extracted, the tooth brings out a mass of corrupted membrane, partly destroyed by ulceration, which is attached to its fangs.—*N. Lon. Gaz.*

TRIMMING AND PHLEBOTOMY.

The exchange and the beer-house oft witness the inquisitive spirit of man. But of all the lounges, where idleness may yawn, or curiosity peer, where the Marplots of the hour may unburthen their own brains, or pry into a neighbor's, none seems to have been frequented more than the Barber's shop. If "report be not a very liar," in the days of antiquity the barber-surgeon was one in no mean repute. His shop was a resort for those who had wounds to be cured, and for those who were to be trimmed. Trimming was a term implying either shaving or cutting, or curling the hair. These, in addition to phlebotomy, were the occupations of the ancient barber-surgeons. The care of setting limbs devolved on another class, named, energetically, bone-setters; who, though resembling in their

occupation the barber-surgeons, did not rank with them. The common furniture of the shop of the latter, was a table and a chair or two, and the report says, not that females passed his threshold, yet a mirror hung on the wall, where a looking-glass hangs now. Beside these, a lute or viol were always in the shop, and were essential to the entertainment of those, who waited while the earlier visitors were trimming. The fashion of the times, and the indifference of quidnuncs to the "concord of sweet sounds," have substituted in the room of those instruments, one, which, if it make not as sweet melody, is at least not deemed unharmonious. A newspaper is now a necessary appendage; and, without it, the barber's shop would be as disagreeable as a milliner's without scandal; a fashionable party without cards; or a patriot without liberty, and "no taxes." Without it, time goes on crutches.

At the threshold of the shop, stood a pole, which told the passengers, that within "a vein might be breathed," or "a beard moved." Of old, a fillet was twined round it: and the successors of the fraternity, as an emblem, have painted their poles with various colors. As mankind have increased, and the occupation of the barber-surgeon has been recognized in Fashion's temple, it has become requisite to devote more time and greater application to this trade; and as new diseases have trodden closely on the heels of luxury, the modern barber has yielded the curing of wounds to the physician, and reserved to himself trimming and phlebotomy.

RELAXATION.

Dr Mead recommends a little excess or joviality, *now and then*; and, I confess, I believe it to be as salutary to the mind and affections, as it can be to the body. Shaftsbury somewhere calls company or conversation an *amicable collision*, but they should be a little warmed and elevated with wine. I would not rant with Horace, *quid non ebrietas designat*, for drunkenness is noxious both to body and mind; but to be cheerful beyond the natural tone of the spirits, and raised to a standard somewhat bigger than the life, may be attended with good effects upon both. By thus invigorating the vital powers, and quickening the circulation of the fluids, obstructions are removed from the body, as by a freshet in spring, filth is forced from a river. Madeira may benefit the mind, give fresh firmness to the spirits, and disperse those clouds, with which the human noddle is, like Shakspeare's towers, so frequently capped. The heart will be warmed, the affections exalted; and the whole man will be a better, as well as a happier being. In short, by taking off his attention from vice and from care, and rendering him oblivious of his woes, he will insensibly procure a new edition of himself. All this, however, if you mean to preserve its efficacy, only *now and then*.

RED CABBAGE.

The red cabbage stewed in veal broth is accounted upon the continent a specific cure against pulmonary complaints, and what is here called consumption. For this purpose red cabbage is especially cultivated in French kitchen gardens; to which, in the cooking, pistachios and calf's lights are added. This reminds us of an anecdote which passed current at the time we heard it. A young Roman Catholic clergy-

man, rector of a country parish, was called upon to preach a sermon upon a grand solemnity, at which the bishop of the diocese, a cardinal, appeared in the Roman purple, surrounded by the clergy in their white surplices. The preacher performed his task to the approbation of every one. After the ceremony, his eminence, meeting him, seemed to wonder at his not having been abashed when in the presence of a cardinal in the full blaze of his red paraphernalia. The simple and honest clergyman replied: "Your eminence will cease to wonder, when you know that I learnt my discourse by heart in my garden, and used to practice declamation before a plot of white cabbages, in the centre of which was a red one."—A preferment was the reward of this witty answer.

INTEMPERANCE,

THE DISEASES INDUCED BY IT.

The following Extract from an Essay by Rev. Mr Yale, of New Hartford, Conn. contains a true picture of a few of the melancholy consequences of a vice which disgraces and destroys such immense numbers of our species.

The drunkard shortens his life and ruins his soul. Often he dies prematurely, during a paroxysm of intoxication. At other times, some distressing disease is either induced or rendered fatal by his habit of intemperance. Among diseases resulting from intemperance, the prince of poets gives the following catalogue:

"All maladies

Of ghostly spasm, or racking torture, qualms
Of heart-sick agony, all feverous kinds,
Convulsions, epilepsies, fierce catarrhs,
Intestine, stone and ulcer, cholic pangs,
Demoniac phrenzy, moping melancholy,
And moon-struck madness, pining atrophy,
Marasmus, and wide wasting pestilence,
Dropsies and asthmas, and joint-racking rheums."

Should this catalogue be thought to savour too much of Apollo, that which follows is from Dr Trotter, a genuine son of Æsculapius. He states one class of diseases which appear during the paroxysm, and a second class which are induced by a habit of drinking. Of the former class are apoplexy, epilepsy, hysteria, convulsions, and oneirodynia; of the latter, phrenitis, rheumatism, pleurisy, gastritis, enteritis, ophthalmia, carbuncles, gutta serena, diseased liver, gout, schirrous of the bowels, jaundice, dyspepsia, dropsy, tabes, emaciation of the body, syncope, palpitation, diabetes, locked-jaw, palsy, ulcers, madness and idiotism, melancholy, impotency, predisposition to gangrene, premature old age. Another eminent physician states his conviction, that more than one eighth of the deaths which take place in persons above twenty years of age, happens prematurely through excess in drinking spirits. The writer has examined a bill of mortality for nine years, and to his astonishment has found, that of the whole number of deaths, one in nine was of persons whose reputation was in some degree tarnished by this vice.

And when the body is thus consigned to an early grave, what becomes of the soul?

THE STOMACH.

The stomach, which, to borrow a figure from one of our correspondents, is the great water-wheel, on the regular movement of which the action of all the machinery depends, seldom receives from people in general, or from

the faculty, the attention it deserves. Being the organ to which all nutritive agents are immediately applied, it becomes liable to a thousand injuries, and being that through which all nourishment must be derived, it becomes infinitely important that these injuries should be immediately repaired. It is the seat, as it were, of the soul; for the brain and nervous system, as well as every other part of the economy, sympathize with it most intimately, and the thoughts and feelings are as dependent on its healthy action, as are the processes of circulation, respiration and digestion. How speedily does delirium often subside on the administration of an emetic! The same remedy will remove a feverish flush from the surface, calm an agitated pulse, destroy the most distressing paroxysm of asthma, restore tone to the digestive apparatus, and promote healthy action in ill conditioned wounds upon the extremities. There is no part of the system the influence of which is so universal, over which we have so direct a power, or which is so likely to require the exercise of that power, as the stomach. It is therefore of the utmost importance that physicians study with more accuracy than is usual its functions and diseases, and that all who desire a long life, regard with care the demands of so important and useful an organ, as deserving their constant and most scrupulous attention.

CONVALESCENCE.

There is a practice so common among Physicians in every part of this country, that it is almost universally overlooked, although productive of much evil. It is that of regarding the period of convalescence with too much indifference.

During the progress of a disease, every attention and every effort which the circumstances of the case require, are most earnestly and carefully given to the sick; but no sooner is the disease overcome, and dangerous symptoms ended, than the patient is dismissed with the general injunction—"be careful and not eat too much or go out too early, and you will soon be well." The consequence is, that weeks and weeks of confinement become the lot of the convalescent, and not unfrequently the system sinks into a state of permanent debility for want of those restoratives and that medical attention which ought to have been given.

There is in reality no part of a disease so dangerous as that of which we treat; for not only is there fear of permanent debility, but of relapse; and hence is the too common haste of Physicians to relinquish their patients, extremely reprehensible. In Europe, a Physician seldom gives up his patient until he is perfectly well, and has been a week or two about his business.—This is an example which ought to be followed by us, and we cannot but hope our friends of the Faculty will not only reflect on the importance of the improvement which we propose in their mode of practice, but carry it into immediate and uniform effect.

REPORTS.

DIABETES MELLITUS.

Communicated for the Boston Medical Intelligencer, By Dr E. ADAMS, Watertown, Jefferson Co. N. Y.

The great and immediate good effects resulting from the curative means used in this case, offer a sufficient apology for giving publicity to an outline of it. I very well know that other physicians have pursued a similar course, with similar results; and that Dr Henry Marsh, of Dublin, is particularly entitled to great credit,

no less for his philosophical views, than his scientific and successful treatment of this obstinate malady. The subject of the present case, was a young man about 18 years of age. I was first summoned to visit him on the 25th of August, 1824. He then stated that he had labored under the disease four months, and that it arose immediately after four or five days' exposure to the cold storms and atmospheric vicissitudes of the preceding April. The following were the most prominent and distinguishing characteristics of his complaint:—extreme listlessness; great prostration of strength; thirst; voracious appetite; tumid epigastrium; obstinate constipation; extreme emaciation; daily excretion of from sixteen to twenty-one pounds of saccharine urine, depositing a coarse brown sediment during evaporation; scanty pulmonic exhalation; a sensation of coldness on the surface; a total loss of cutaneous transpiration; a yellow and arid skin, apparently adherent to the subjacent muscles.

The following treatment was adopted. A drastic cathartic every evening, until it produced five or six daily catharses; the use of the vapor bath once or twice daily; frictions with emollient liniment, and the internal exhibitions of large quantities of opium, combined with Dover's powders. These means, conjoined with an animal diet and active exercise, were continued until the 1st of December, when the diabetic diathesis seemed wholly eradicated. The patient was then directed to discontinue the use of medicine, and depend on manual labor for the maintenance of a constant and equable perspiration, and equality of those vital forces, that had previously been concentrated in the nephritic secreting system. The patient has since had no recurrence of his complaint, and enjoys constant and vigorous health. The writer feels assured that this case, equally with those of Dr Marsh, amply illustrates the controlling influence exerted by the cutaneous membrane over this disease, and demonstrates the imperious necessity of administering internal remedies, and of applying external remedial agents that have a direct relation with the diseased state of this organ.

DR COMBE'S CASE OF ANÆMIA.

July, 1821, I was first consulted by the subject of this case. He exactly resembled a person just recovering from an attack of syncope; his face, lips, and the whole extent of the surface, were of a deadly pale color; the albuginea of the eye bluish; his motions and speech were languid; he complained much of weakness; his respiration, free when at rest, became hurried on the slightest exertion; pulse 80, and feeble; tongue covered with a dry fur; the inner parts of the lips and fauces were nearly as colorless as the surface. He says that his bowels are very irregular, generally lax, and that his stools are very dark and fœtid; urine reported to be copious and pale; appetite impaired; of late his stomach has rejected every kind of food; has constant thirst: he has no pain referable to any part; and a minute examination could not detect any structural derangement of any organ. He is forty-seven years of age. . . . He is married, and has no family; leads a regular and temperate life; has enjoyed perfect health since childhood, and has never been blooded. He was advised to use some medicine to correct the

state of his bowels, to confine himself to a light diet, and to take gentle exercise.

A few days afterwards his stools were dark and very fœtid; urine pale and copious, depositing scarcely any sediment. His feet became œdematous; and his appetite failed him. The skin was of the same waxen color, soft, and delicate, the cellular texture about the eyes and breast being slightly distended with watery effusion. The pulse was feeble, and easily excited by any motion. The veins on the arm and neck were delicate, and could be felt on making pressure; but the color of the blood did not appear through the skin. Some tonic medicines, a mild nutritious diet, with wine, were prescribed.

About a fortnight after this he was evidently better, but I was not at any time confident that there was any change in his complexion. Towards the end of September he tried the effects of a sea voyage, and afterwards drank the waters of a chalybeate spring. He returned in the middle of October with a loss of flesh and strength; his legs were much swollen; his skin had the same exsanguine appearance. For two months after this the disease presented no peculiar features in addition to those already enumerated; all the symptoms, however, were aggravated, and the constitution began to sink under their pressure. About the middle of January, 1822, the œdema had extended over his face and upper extremities, and evident marks of effusion into the chest presented themselves. He died in a few weeks, with all the symptoms usually attendant on hydrothorax.

DISSECTION.—Assisted by Dr Kellie, I proceeded, thirty-six hours after death, to examine the body. Externally it presented no peculiar appearance: the color was nearly the same as during life, and we did not observe on the depending parts of the body the usual dark-colored spots from the gravitated blood. The muscles had acquired little *roideur*. The subcutaneous fat was scanty, of a pale color, and semifluid.

Not a drop of blood escaped on dividing the scalp; the dura mater, as usual, was pale, presenting few vessels, and those empty; it was bedewed with serum. Near the vortex, and to the left of the sinus, was a considerable ossification imbedded in the plicæ of the membrane; it was an inch long, rough and irregular. The pia mater was pale; its blood-vessels contained a pale serum and a considerable quantity of air: a slight effusion under the arachnoid coat. The substance of the brain was very soft and pulsatous, presenting very few vessels, and very little difference in color existed between the cineritious and medullary portions,—[Was there no morbid softening of the brain here?—]The ventricles contained about two drams of serum, and about two ounces were found at the basis. The lateral sinuses were moderately filled with pale fluid blood; the arteries at the basis were empty. In the thorax we found effused about three pounds of a lemon-colored serum; the lungs of a pale grey color, without any mark of gravitated blood. The pericardium contained about an ounce of serum. The heart, when cut into, was of a pale color, and did not tinge linen when rubbed upon it; it appeared like flesh macerated many days in water. The right ventricle contained a pale coagulum. The left

side was wholly empty: coronary arteries sound. . . .

The liver was of its proper size and structure, but of a light brown color. There was no exudation of blood on cutting its substance. The muscular substance throughout the body was like that of the heart. The arteries were universally empty, and so were the jugular, femoral, and humoral veins. The lower cava alone, about the bifurcation, with the exception of the lateral sinuses, contained no appreciable quantity of blood. The abdominal viscera were pale, bloodless, and without structural derangement.—*Lon. Med. Repository.*

VARIETIES.

NEW-YORK EYE INFIRMARY.—The Surgeons of this Institution have much satisfaction in stating, that the usefulness of the Institution has been materially increased by the possession of a proper building, into which a certain number of patients has been received, boarded and nursed—an advantage for which the Infirmary is indebted to the bounty of the Legislature of the state, bestowed at their session of last winter.—They have by this means been enabled to receive a number of patients, mostly from the country, who would not otherwise have had it in their power to be relieved by the Institution. But they have most fully realized the advantages flowing from this extension of the original plan of the Infirmary, in cases where serious operations have been necessary. In their previous reports, they have stated the great disadvantages under which they labored in such cases, from the want of proper care and nursing for patients after operations; and the other comforts which it is impossible for the poor to obtain in their own dwellings; and that in consequence, in several instances, their operations have failed, and in a few, the organ operated upon has been entirely lost. Since the first of May last, the period when the Infirmary was first placed in its present building, and on its improved plan, no case of the latter accident has happened to any patient received and operated upon at the Infirmary.—In order to increase as much as possible the usefulness of the institution, and instruct students of medicine in the branch of surgery practised at the infirmary, one of the surgeons has, this winter, commenced a course of lectures on Diseases of the Eye, which will be repeated every succeeding winter during the session of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. The students attending the lectures, having at the same time, the privilege of seeing the practice and operations of the surgeons of the infirmary, have thus afforded to them the best means of learning this branch of their science.

Diseases treated at the Infirmary.

Inflammation of the Conjunctiva	-	-	296
Do. Do. with purulent discharge, adults, 3—infants	-	-	17
Strumous Inflammation of the Conjunctiva	-	-	51
Do. Do. Do. with pustules	-	-	69
Chronic Inflammation of the Conjunctiva, granular lids and vascular cornea	-	-	7
Ulcers of the Cornea	-	-	49
Excrescences of the Conjunctiva	-	-	1
Opacities of the Cornea	-	-	30
Pterygium	-	-	2
Staphyloma	-	-	3
Iritis	-	-	30
Closed pupil	-	-	4
Tumor upon the Iris	-	-	1
Cataract	-	-	8
Amaurosis	-	-	77
Glaucoma	-	-	1
Strabismus	-	-	1
Tinea Ciliaris	-	-	61
Lippitudo	-	-	31
Hordeolum	-	-	2
Inversion of the Eyelids	-	-	1
Eversion of the Eyelids	-	-	3
Tumors of the Eyelids	-	-	8
Abscesses of the Eyelids	-	-	6
Ulcers of the Eyelids	-	-	1
Diseases of the Lachrymal passages	-	-	17

Dropsy of the Eyeball	-	-	1
Fungus of the Eyeball	-	-	2
Wounds and other injuries of the Eyes	-	-	43

MEDICAL AND MATHEMATICAL QUESTIONS.—1. Construct a craniometer on the principle of the hydrometer, pointing out the uses to which such an instrument would be applicable.—2. The successive ascents of wind in the stomach are in musical progression. Required a proof.—3. Find the periodic time of the honey-moon, and determine in general when the horns are first apparent.—4. Given, that a man can stand 24 hours on two legs; show that the same man can stand 12 hours upon one.—5. Given, the three sides of a steel triangle just immersed in sulphuric acid: required, a solution of the triangle.—6. Find practically the nature and length of the lunar caustic.—7. Given, a Berkshire pig, a Johnian pig, and a pig of lead; to compare their respective densities.—8. Find the actual value of 0, and from hence explain the general expression of a man sending a circular letter to his creditors.—9. An orifice is cut, reaching from the surface to the centre of the earth. In what time will a cub of given magnitude descend with the velocity acquired in a chase of a given number of miles?—10. Investigate an expression for the law of the centrifugal force in modern extempore discourses.—11. Reconcile Hoyle and Euclid; the latter of whom declares a point to be without magnitude, the former, to equal five.—12. Given, a quantity of broadcloth to your tailor; prove that the curve into which the coat will necessarily be cut, is elliptical, and thence calculate the whole quantity of cabbage.—13. In the general equation, show that the probable reason why Wood invariably uses *p*, and *q*, in preference to the other letters of the alphabet, may be deduced from the general expression—"mind your *p*'s and *q*'s."—14. Where must an eye be placed to see distinctly the books missing from the University Library, the fountain of the Nile, and the author of Junius' letters?—15. Sum your rental to *n* terms by the method of increments, your debts *ad infinitum* by the differential method.—16. Required to express the function of a sinecure.

LUDICROUS OCCURRENCE.—A young gentleman recently applied to his friend for the best mode of giving a darker shade to his hair. The young pupil had been previously pointing out the particulars of a lecture he had heard, and which was upon the nature of the hair. A solution of nitrate of silver, he said, he had no doubt would have the desired effect. Now, whether he designed this advice for a trick, or whether the prescription was the effect of ignorance, we cannot say. The solution was, he said, to be used in considerable quantity; in short, he was to wash the whole head in this fluid. Accordingly, the young gentleman applied it on going to bed, and put on his night-cap comfortably—only a little wet. On washing his head with the solution, the fluid naturally wetted the greater part of his face, and whatever part of the skin it touched, it "left its mark." The next morning the patient was first seen by his brother, who, believing him suffering under suffocation or some terrible dream, alarmed the whole house. The alarm, however, soon subsided in all except the mortified patient, whose face was the color of an old shoe. The skin received no injury by the solution, except that of discoloring, which cannot be removed by any means for some weeks! The skin grows gradually red, before it disappears. The young gentleman is in a truly deplorable state, and seldom speaks, except to utter curses upon the head of his hair-adviser.

JOHN FEWSTER.—April, 1824. John Fewster died, a very respectable surgeon and apothecary at Thornbury (Eng). This gentleman is universally considered, in that neighborhood, as the first person who noticed the effects of the vaccine virus. Many years past, a medical club was established at Thornbury, where gentlemen of that profession met each other, and communicated any fact or observation that had occurred in the course of their practice. At one of these meetings, Mr Fewster mentioned to the members present, that the hands of those persons who were employed in milking the cows in that great dairy neighborhood, contracted a complaint from the animal, appearing in the form of pustules; and that persons so affected were not liable to the contagion of the small-pox. Mr Jenner, of

Berkley, a brother Æsculapius, being struck with the relation, requested Mr F. to investigate this curious fact more narrowly by a course of experiments; this Mr F. declined on account of professional occupations, but pressed Mr Jenner to do so. Fortunately for mankind, the advice was not neglected; and, from the skill and perseverance of this gentleman (afterwards DR JENNER), the blessings of the vaccine virus were distributed through the earth.

ELECTRICITY.—The power of electricity over the body is well known; in fact we can never enjoy health or comfort without a proportion of it in the system.—When this portion is deficient, we feel languid and heavy, and very foolishly pronounce a libel on the blood, which is quite innocent; while we never suspect the damp atmosphere of robbing us of our electricity.—Yet so it is in dry weather, whether it be warm, cold, or frosty, we feel light and spirited, because dry air is a slow conductor of electricity, and leaves us to enjoy its luxuries.—In moist or rainy weather, we feel oppressed and drowsy, because all moisture greedily absorbs our electricity, which is the buoyant cordial of the body. To remedy this inconvenience, we have only to discover a good non-conductor of electricity to prevent its escape from the body; and this we have in silk. Those, therefore, who are apt to become low-spirited and listless in damp weather, will find silk waistcoats, drawers and stockings, the most powerful of cordials.

There are fifty-two students at the Medical College of South-Carolina.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

Ending March 11; from the Health-Office Returns.

March 4.—George Elliot, 3 mo. 5th.—Mary Scribner, 25; Margaret Barnes; Henry L. Barnes, 32. 6th.—James Clark Darracott, 3. 8th.—Wilder Holland; Sarah S. Ladd, 22; Henry Whiting; Eliza Allen, 55; William Lincoln, 26; William Andrews, 67. 9th.—John A Shaw, 42; Eliza Ann Lewis, 3; Elizabeth Riley, 2 mo.; Eliza Smith, 20; Judith Brown, 26. 10th.—Mary Cassell, 32. 11th.—William Aberback, 55; Nancy Upham; Thomas C. Savery, 31; Harriet T. Hudson, 24; John Whaler.

Infantile, 1—Small-pox (at Rainsford Island), 1—Brain Fever, 1—Lung Fever, 1—Consumption, 7—Influenza, 1—Stoppage in the Bowels, 1—Jaundice, 1—Childbed, 1—Poison, 1—Liver Complaint, 1—Drowned, 1. City poor, 2.

Advertisement.

HAVING purchased of Messrs Munroe & Francis, the long-established and popular periodical, called the Atheneum, or Spirit of the English Magazines (containing selections from the Gentleman's—Lady's—European—Monthly—New Monthly—Sporting—Edinburgh—Blackwood's—Asiatic—London—Imperial—La Belle Assemblee—Ackerman's Repository—and other Magazines; Literary Gazette—Bell's Messenger, &c. &c.), the subscriber will earnestly endeavor to continue its usefulness, and to render it as acceptable to its numerous patrons as it has heretofore been; and, having for this purpose made arrangements for the early reception of the most approved English periodical publications, such selections will be made as it is hoped will satisfy the reader, whether seeking information or amusement. The work will be printed on new type and fine paper, and published on the 1st and 15th of every month, each No. containing 40 pages, large octavo, at 5 dollars per annum, or 2,50, for six months. Subscriptions received for either term. Those gentlemen who have assisted in the distribution, are requested to continue their agency on the same terms.

The first No. of Vol. 3, New Series, will be published April 1, at the corner of Washington and Franklin Streets, (formerly 47 Marlboro'-Street.)

JOHN COTTON.

Boston, March 15, 1825.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER:

Published weekly, at two dollars a year, in advance. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

OBSERVATIONS.

On the Natural History and Medical use of the Leech; with some account of the Mode of managing Leeches, as well as of applying them, and Stopping the Bleeding from their Bites.

(Continued from page 179.)

4. ON THE MODE OF APPLYING LEECHES.

To apply leeches successfully, it is essential that the patient's skin be perfectly clean and soft; and as commonly a lotion has been used to the part before the leeches are employed, considerable attention is often required before this can be washed entirely off.

Hot water with soap must first be used, until the part is clean, and then the soap must be carefully removed by means of pure water.

When the skin is in this state, leeches will bite very readily when they are fresh and hungry. The best mode of applying them is to let the leech crawl on a dry piece of linen for a little time; or better, if it have been kept in a vessel without water for some time beforehand, then to take it in a bit of soft linen between the thumb and finger, and when it projects its pointed mouth from between the folds of linen, to direct it to the spot intended for it to act on.

In this way the leech will generally fasten at the first touch, and it will at all events fasten more readily, since it is prevented from covering the skin with slime, and thus sheathing it from its own bite and that of other leeches. The most skilful appliers of leeches use this method, and they gain celebrity by thus throwing them on the part, as some of them express it.

Another way is to put the leeches into a wine glass or pill-box, and then to invert the glass or box on the proper part. This method does not answer when the leeches are not lively, for they will fix on the sides of the vessel, so as not to be again made to touch the skin. This difficulty may generally be obviated by putting more leeches into the vessel or vessels than are wished to be applied, and removing them when the proper number have adhered.

In cases of difficulty, it is often advantageous to cover the part with cream or milk; or better, to touch the head of the leech with a drop of vinegar; or to make small incisions in the skin (of the operator, perhaps, if the patient be a sleeping child), by means of a lancet; or, if one leech have adhered, to take it off again, and use the blood, to entice others to do likewise.

Mr Thomson says, in the London Dispensatory, that a leech may certainly be made to bite on any assigned spot, by putting it into a quill which is open at both ends, and after placing the end containing the leech's head on the part, stopping up the other end by means of the finger.—This information is valuable, at least if the plan prove generally successful, in cases where leeches are required close to an important part, as near the eye, or on the gums, &c.; but it is to be feared that the quill would be as likely to fail as the common leech-glass, both being used on the same principle, and the latter being confessedly an ineffective instrument.

The pain of biting generally ceases in a short time after the leech has adhered; but if the patient be so placed as that the leech hangs as it were from the point of adhesion, the pain is in some individuals increased and continues till the leech falls off.

Leeches should not remain on the part for more than ten or fifteen minutes; if they do not then fall off, it will be found they have been sluggish and are not full, and the same thing will be shewn by the want of that vermicular motion on the leech, which is so perceptible when it draws vigorously. In these cases, it may often be made more active by touching its head with vinegar.

As it sometimes happens that leeches when indolent, will thus remain on the part for hours, it is better to remove them if they are indisposed to suck. This may be done by the application of a very little salt to their heads, and as the after-bleeding is generally more advantageous than the drawing of the leech itself, very little loss is sustained by removing them before they are filled with blood.*

5. THE TREATMENT OF LEECHES AFTER THEIR REMOVAL FROM THE SKIN.

Great waste is occasioned by unskilfulness in attending to leeches after they fall off. By proper care, they may be made to act again and again; for, when it is considered that blood is the natural food of the leech, it must follow, that some fault in our treatment causes their death, and not their having made a hearty meal on food that is natural to them. It may happen, indeed, that the blood in certain states of disease, acts as a poison and destroys them; many persons having stated that they fall off dead, in some cases, before any application is made to them; but this is at least problematical, and perhaps unlikely.

The common practice of covering them with salt is almost always destructive; and, even by sprinkling a small quantity on their bodies, if death do not follow, it generally happens that the leech is blistered by the salt, and made incapable of acting again for a considerable time.

Squeezing out the blood is better than the application of salt in any form; but the best mode is to touch them with vinegar, which, if sparingly applied, will make them vomit, so that they may be re-applied again immediately, even to the third or fourth time, or, by returning them into clean water, be ready for another occasion. When leeches are treated in this way, and especially if they be allowed to keep perhaps a fourth part of the blood which they have swallowed, they are not only capable of acting repeatedly, but in skilful hands may be made to grow to an immense size. Under one gentleman's care, a set of leeches were in this way preserved for a great length of time, and at last they grew to the length of nearly eight inches. It was want of care that destroyed them even after all this. These leeches were not once emptied of their

* According to one gentleman's experiments, the largest leech is not more than a drachm heavier when full, than before application. If so, small ones cannot draw away more than half a tea-spoonful of blood.

blood, and yet they often were used again at an interval of only a few days.

It is an erroneous idea to suppose that leeches die if they be not emptied of their blood; the only inconvenience of permitting them to retain it all is, that they then remain inactive, and incapable of being used for a longer time than if treated differently.

(To be continued.)

BIOGRAPHY.

THE LIFE OF DR ARMSTRONG.

John Armstrong, M. D. a poet and physician, was born, about 1709, at Castleton, in Roxburghshire, Scotland, where his father was minister. In his principal poem, he has very pleasingly celebrated his native place, and the rivulet with which it is beautified.

Such the stream
On whose Arcadian banks I first drew air,
Liddal; till now, except in Doric lays,
Tun'd to her murmurs by her love-sick swains,
Unknown in song; though not a purer stream,
Through meads more flow'ry, or more romantic groves,
Rolls toward the western main, &c.

ART OF HEALTH, Book III.

He was designed for the medical profession, and studied for that purpose in the university of Edinburgh, where he took his degree with reputation, in 1732. The subject of his inaugural thesis was *De Tabæ Purulenta*. He settled in London, where he appeared in the double capacity of author and physician; but his success in the former, as has frequently been the case, seems to have impeded his progress in the latter. His first publication, in 1735, was a humorous attack upon empirics, in the manner of Lucian, entitled, "An Essay for abridging the Study of Physic; to which is added, A Dialogue between Hygeia, Mercury, and Plato, relating to the practice of Physic, as it is managed by a certain illustrious Society; and an Epistle from Usbeck the Persian to Joshua Ward, Esq." In 1737 he published a serious professional piece, "On the Venereal Disease;" and soon after it, a poem, entitled "The Economy of Love," which met with a success, which was probably, in the end, a source neither of satisfaction nor advantage to the author. It is an elegant and vigorous performance, but so warm in some of its descriptions, as to have incurred the general censure of licentiousness, which has excluded it from the most reputable collections of poetry. The author himself considerably pruned its luxuriance in an edition printed in 1768. In 1744, his capital work, the didactic poem, on "The Art of preserving Health," appeared and raised his literary reputation to a height, which his after-performances scarcely sustained. A poem "On Benevolence," in 1751, and another entitled "Taste, an Epistle to a young Critic," in 1753, showed that he continued to cultivate the muses, though with no extraordinary success. A volume, in prose, of "Sketches or Essays on various Subjects," under the name of "Launcelot Temple, Esq." in 1758, was better received by the public, who admired the humor and knowledge of the world which it displayed. The

celebrated Mr Wilkes, then his intimate acquaintance, was supposed to have contributed a share to this volume.

Dr Armstrong had professional interest enough in 1760, to obtain the appointment of physician to the army in Germany. From that country he wrote "Day," a poem, and "An Epistle to John Wilkes, Esq." A reflection upon Churchill in this latter piece drew upon him a severe retaliation from that irritable bard in his "Journey." Party now ran so high, especially that of the worst kind, national animosity, that a native of Scotland could scarcely keep up a friendly intercourse with an English oppositionist: accordingly, we find that the intimacy between Dr Armstrong and Mr Wilkes was dissolved about this time. At the peace of 1763, Armstrong returned to London, and resumed the practice of physic; but his habits and manners opposed an insurmountable bar against popular success. His mind was too lofty to stoop to intrigue; his manner was stiff and reserved; and his disposition was indolent. He continued occasionally rather to amuse than exert himself in literary productions, serious and humorous; sometimes, in the latter, mistaking oddity for wit, and indulging an unpleasant vein of vulgarity in expression, and misanthropy in sentiment. These latter effusions are scarcely worth particularizing. In 1771 he made a journey to France and Italy, accompanied by the celebrated painter, Mr Fuseli, who warmly attests the benevolence of his character. On this tour, he took a last farewell, in Italy, of his friend Smollett, to whom he was much attached. He published a short account of this ramble, under the name of Launcelot Temple. His last publication, a pamphlet, in 1773, entitled "Medical Essays," accounts, in a splenetic manner, for the limited practice he attained, and complains of his literary critics. He died in September, 1779, leaving considerable savings from a very moderate income. Armstrong was a man much beloved and respected by his intimates, and seems to have possessed great goodness of heart, as well as extensive knowledge and abilities; but a kind of morbid sensibility preyed on his temper, and a languid listlessness damped his intellectual efforts. The following lines in Thomson's "Castle of Indolence," are said to have been meant for his portraiture:

With him was sometimes joined, in silent walk,
(Profoundly silent—for they never spoke)
One shyer still, who quite detested talk;
Oft stung by spleen, at once away he broke,
To groves of pine, and broad o'ershadowing oak,
There, inly thrill'd; he wander'd all alone,
And on himself his pensive fury woke:
He never utter'd word, save when first shone
The glittering star of eve—"Thank heaven! the day
is done."

It should not be forgotten, that Armstrong contributed to this excellent poem the fine stanzas, descriptive of the diseases to which the votaries of indolence finally become martyrs.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

MEDICAL HISTORY OF MAINE.

The situation of Maine has been such, that until within the present century, few individuals could be designated who have contributed much to the honor of the profession, or been generally known among the practitioners of the state. Education was circumscribed, and they who assum-

ed the garb of the physician, generally wore it in connection with other habits, and for the purpose of adding somewhat to the dignity of their character, and the extent of their fortune. The circle of professional practice was large, and the country being thinly inhabited, the physician was obliged to mount his saddle-bags, like a deputy-sheriff, and distribute his *utile et dulce* over an area of many miles. He had no time for study and reflection, and the leisure moments from practice must be spent in tilling the farm or bartering merchandize. Books and medicine were scarce, and save an obsolete volume of medical practice, or a vade-mecum, and a few scarce and domestic drugs, he had neither intelligence to learn the character of diseases, nor means to regulate nature in her progress, or control her effects. But *tempora mutantur*, &c. The rays of medical science are now brightening over a wide circle of intelligent and refined society, and it is confidently hoped that the time is not far distant when Maine, with her excellent and flourishing Medical School, may boast of as learned and accomplished physicians as her parent state; and when they may contribute as largely to general knowledge, share as liberally in the bounties of science, and impart as much to the honor of her fame.

Among the earliest and most celebrated practitioners of whom we have any account, was Dr Nathaniel Coffin, who sustained a high reputation in medicine and surgery, and died in 1766, bequeathing his mantle to his son, Nathaniel Coffin, M. D. first President of the Medical Society of Maine, and who has since worn it with unexampled success and reputation, for *more than sixty years*. Next of consequence, was Dr Thomas, who, we believe, was the first appointed Surgeon of *Fort Preble*; and as much distinguished for his suavity of manners, as dexterity in operations. Contemporary was Dr Lowther, an Englishman, who was a Surgeon of considerable skill, and who also practised for several years in the town of Portland.

More recently, we recollect Dr Benjamin Burge, who was established for a short period at Vassalborough. He was a gentleman of extensive attainments, and much beloved in society; and had he not fallen an early victim to consumption, would without doubt have contributed much to the honor of his profession, and the literature of the state.

Dr John Frost was a Physician of considerable reputation. He was born in Elliot, practised a few years in Portland, and afterwards removed to Havana, where he succeeded well in his profession, and amassed a considerable estate. He wrote an Essay upon *Yellow Fever*, which has been much read and will long be regarded as a monument of his practical skill and judgment, and his success in the treatment of this dreadful and fatal disease. He died a year or two since, at his residence in Havana.

Drs Benjamin Page, sen. and Ammi R. Mitchell, were gentlemen of high standing in their profession, and will long be remembered with gratitude and esteem. They were both concerned in the events of the revolution, and as disciples of Washington, imbibed the strongest principles of patriotism, which continued till their decease. The former was a member of the New-Hampshire Legislature and Medical Society, for several years, and the latter a member and counsel-

lor of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and a member of the Legislature of that State. They both died within the last year.

Among those who stand high in public esteem, and who are now abroad engaged in the duties of their profession, are Thomas Sewall, M. D. Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in Columbia College, at Washington, and Jedediah Cobb, M. D. Lecturer on the Theory and Practice of Physic, in the Medical College of Ohio.

Of the present practitioners, those who are the most prominent, and who rank highest in the profession, are, Drs Coffin, Brown, Emerson, the two Pages, Weed, Cary, Tappan, Merrill, Lincoln, Bartlett, Stockbridge, Dickenson, Eastabrooks, Holman, Ellis, Cummings, Green, Barrows, McKeen, Mann, Nourse and Snell.

There are others who have received a medical education, and who are in eligible practice, and bid fair to command the esteem and confidence of the public, and enhance the medical character of the state; but at present it would be invidious to enumerate any but those whose names are a sufficient guaranty of their reputation, and who hold a respectable rank in medical society.

Maine, March, 1825.

ON VOMITING.

The ease or difficulty with which vomiting is induced in the human subject, seems to be proportioned to the delicacy of the organ in which the process commences. One grain of tartar emetic will act powerfully on a boy of seven years of age, and a trifling deviation from the prescribed course of nutrition, will often operate as powerfully on the infant; for so accurately is the stomach of the human suckling adapted to the reception of its mother's milk, and so nicely are its powers limited to the proper object of their exertion, that when a love of ease prompts a perversion of natural affection, and the mother is induced to relinquish one of the most interesting of her natural and moral duties, by resigning her offspring to the breast of another, Nature, indignant, often resents the insult, and throws the stranger's milk from the infant stomach. We cannot wonder, then, that the ancients, who derived all their knowledge and all their associations from Nature, should imitate, in disease, a process which they had often known to afford relief in temporary or accidental oppression. We are told that Hippocrates, the father of medicine, resorted to vomiting as an important means of effecting the purposes of his science; and there is no one of his successors who has not imitated, in this point, their venerable predecessor.

Vomiting is a phenomenon so complicate in its nature, hidden in its cause, various in its effects, and necessary in the cure of so many diseases, that a full discussion of it would require an analysis of its nature, a development of its cause, and a history of its effects and of the diseases in which it has a salutary tendency. We shall speak only of its *process* and its *effects*.

1st. THE PROCESS OF VOMITING. This may be divided into two stages, which have been distinctly marked by La Gallois. The first is the ejection of the contents of the stomach into the œsophagus. The second is the repulsion of them from this canal.

Dr Darwin believed that when the alimentary canal is subjected to a less stimulus than is natural to it, the motions of the œsophagus, stomach, duodenum, lacteals and lymphatics, gradually become tremulous, and, at length, retrograde; and this inverted motion he at-

tributed to that consciousness which sets to operation the celebrated *vis medicalrix naturæ*. Mr Hunter believed the stomach to be stimulated by emetic substances, and this increased action to be accompanied by a retrograde motion; he also supposed that the abdominal muscles sympathize in this increased action of the stomach. Many other theories are recorded of the different powers exerted in the process of vomiting.

During the paroxysm we notice a violent spasmodic action of the walls of the abdomen; and, as there must be a counter force, we should be led to conclude that this action of the abdominal muscles is accompanied by a contraction of the diaphragm. That the action of the stomach alone is insufficient to perform the first stage of vomiting, is rendered probable by the following experiment. An incision was made through the integuments of the abdomen of a dog; the muscles were divided, and the skin sewed over to prevent the admission of air to its cavity; another incision being made into the thorax, the phrenic nerves were divided, so that the diaphragm and abdominal muscles were totally paralyzed. Three grains of tartar emetic were now injected into the jugular vein, until slight efforts to vomit were produced; a second injection was made, and these efforts continued, till at last a little liquid was thrown into the œsophagus, and the animal expired.—In this experiment we see the insulated action of the stomach, which proved inadequate to effect an evacuation of its solid contents. The stomach must therefore receive some assistance; and that this is afforded by the surrounding muscles we are induced to believe from reasoning and experiment. A rapid inspiration of air is known to occur during the first part of the paroxysm of vomiting. The capacity of the thorax must consequently be increased to form a vacuum, to fill which this inspiration is required; and such an enlargement cannot be produced without the contraction of the diaphragm. The action of the abdominal muscles is visible to every observer. This opinion is confirmed by the following experiments of Le Gallois and Beclard.—The œsophagus of a quadruped was separated from the stomach at its cardiac orifice. Tartar emetic was now injected through the crural vein. In a few minutes the action of vomiting commenced, and the contents of the stomach were cast into the left cavity of the thorax. In another similar experiment the stomach itself was found empty in the same cavity. This effect must have been produced by the diaphragm and abdominal muscles, for, in the former experiment, where they were paralyzed, no such event was found to have occurred. If then they act so powerfully on the detached stomach, when this organ is fixed they must propel its contents with a similar force, and in the same direction.—Thus do these powerful muscles, stationed as they are around this important organ, form a resistless guard against intruding danger.

The French Physiologists have instituted another experiment which is the substitution of an artificial stomach filled with a colored liquid; injections of tartar emetic being made through the jugular vein, this liquid was vomited up. From this they conclude that the first stage of vomiting may take place independent of the action of the stomach. But these premises do not justify the conclusion; for in a previous experiment they would not allow the ejection of liquid to constitute this stage. This artificial stomach should then have contained solid matter, and if this had been thrown into the œsophagus, the conclusion would have been inevitable. The second stage of vomiting, or

that part performed in the œsophagus, seems to be merely an unnatural contraction of this canal. This contraction is increased by the matter thrown, by the first stage, into its lower extremity, the pressure on which being great, the matter must be thrown up, and cast out by the mouth. The process of vomiting, then, appears to be nearly this;—the exertion of a cause producing diminished action in the stomach, the diaphragm and abdominal muscles combine to avert the evil; and by one effort, they expel the cause of the derangement and brighten into action the torpid powers of the organ which they guard. These powers of the stomach being thus aroused, and its contents driven into the œsophagus, the substances contained in the stomach are forced up, and cast out by the mouth. This operation frequently extends beyond the stomach, and bile is consequently evacuated, which abounds from pressure on the liver.

The proximate cause of vomiting, or the mode in which emetic substances operate in producing their peculiar effect, is an interesting inquiry, as a subject of curiosity, as a guide to direct us in their use, and as a subject of reputation; for the Physician and the empiric are so often destined to appear in the same district, that the character of the former must be determined by diagnostic symptoms, of which a knowledge of the *modus operandi* of the medicines he prescribes is not the most trifling. Are we to trace all the theories which have been advanced on this subject, we must travel back to the very dawns of our science; we must stop in every civilized country in the world, and at the gates of almost every Physiologist of note; for each seems to have had a favorite opinion of his own, different from the opinion of his neighbor. Thus surrounded by reasonings, and by facts, and by opposite conclusions, the enquirer finds it difficult to decide on a question which has so long been the theme of ignorance and of learning, of dogma and of doubt. There are, however, two grand theories which seem, at present, to divide Physiologists. One, that emetics operate as stimuli; the other that their operation is sedative. There are numerous, and apparently well-founded arguments on both sides of this question, and it is hard for us to give an opinion where so many Doctors before us have disagreed; but as our subject requires it, it shall be in favour of the latter.

A few of the arguments in favour of the sedative operation of emetics appears to be drawn—1st, from the intimate sympathy between the stomach, and skin and arterial system;—for soon after an emetic has been received into the stomach, the tone of the skin seems to be impaired, and the pulse is weak and irregular. 2d, from the sympathy between this organ and the brain and nervous system. In the tottering frame of age the nerves have lost their primeval vigour, and the functions of the brain are performed with languor. The same debility exists in the stomach. In the drunken man, the limbs not only tremble, but lose their power of motion;—the functions of the brain are not only impaired, but wholly interrupted; and it is in this state of mental inactivity and consequently of inaction of the stomach, that the process of vomiting is induced. This process would have occurred at an earlier stage, had direct stimulus been the exciting cause. 3d, from the fact that all emetics act with most certainty, when given in the morning, an opiate having been given the preceding night; and, lastly, from the circumstance that Cinchona bark, cordials, blisters and other stimulants counteract the effect of emetic substances. It may be asked, how the debility or in-

action of this organ can excite such powerful and violent contractions of the surrounding muscles. This appears to be an exertion of that guardian Power which is always ready to extricate the system from any oppression or disease under which it may labor.

This inactivity may be induced by such a fullness of the stomach as to impede its usual action or exhaust its powers;—by the peculiar direct action of emetic substances applied immediately to the organ, or through the medium of the blood; by sympathy, as the application of emetic substances to the skin, ideas of disgust, excited in the mind by association or otherwise, accidental injuries of the head, impeding the functions of the brain, or unpleasant impressions on the senses which tend to paralyze their action; and lastly, by continued motion of the body in a backward or rotatory direction.

DR MAURY'S EXPERIMENTS ON THE TREATMENT OF THE ITCH.

An extensive series of experiments on the comparative advantages of the different methods of treatment proposed for the itch, has been made, under the direction of Dr Maury, physician to the hospital of St Louis. The points to be ascertained were, the length of time required,—the expense of the medicines,—their effects upon the skin,—and their comparative degrees of convenience with regard to the linen of the patients. The subjects of experiment were selected;—that is to say, those only were chosen, in whom the nature of the eruption was quite unequivocal, and who had not previously made use of any external application, nor internal remedy.

Twenty-one formulæ, with their results, are given: we subjoin four of those which appear to have cured the disease in the shortest period.

1. Camphorated liniment, of M. Vardy; composed of two ounces of olive or almond oil, and two drachms of camphor. Mean duration of the treatment, 13 3-10 days. This medicine is too expensive for habitual use at a hospital; it stains the linen; the smell is not unpleasant; it effects the cure without irritating the skin, and the itching is much relieved by the first application. It is recommended as a good remedy for private practice. The compound liniment of M. Fournier differs from the preceding, only in the addition of two drachms of liquid ammonia, and the combination is favorably spoken of. The medium length of time required for the cure being reduced to 11 4-10 days.

2. Sulphur pomatum of M. Helmerick: sublimed sulphur, two parts; purified potass, one part; lard, eight parts. Two frictions are made in the day, using two ounces of pomatum for each. Mean duration of the treatment, 11 7-10 days. The price of this is moderate; it soils the linen, from the excess of fat over the alkali; has some smell, but does not incommode the skin, and effects a speedy cure. It differs little from the "pommade sulphuro-alkaline," employed at the hospital of St Louis.

3. Pomatum proposed by M. Melier: subcarbonate of soda, two ounces; water one ounce; olive oil, two ounces; flowers of sulphur, four ounces. Dissolve the subcarbonate in the water, and add the oil, so as to make a soap; then add the sulphur by little and little, carefully mixing it. Of this, two ounces are to be used for each friction, and these to be employed

twice a day. Mean period required for the cure 13 7-10 days. This method presents the advantage of an oil and alkali united in such proportions as to form a soap, by which means it is prevented from staining the linen, and cures the eruption without irritating the skin. It is not without smell. It is suggested that camphor might be substituted for the sulphur, in the proportion of four drachms to the quantity above mentioned.

4. Sulphureous baths. To a common bath add four ounces of the sulphuret of potass. Mean time required for the cure, 17 2-10 days. This method is very gentle, effecting the cure without inconvenience, but slowly, and not suiting every patient. The bath may be rendered more active, and the cure more speedy, by adding a little sulphuric acid. It is expensive, however, and can scarcely be employed but on a great scale.

5. Sulphureous fumigations. Fumigations with sulphureous acids are employed at the hospital of St Louis. The mean time required is 21 4-10 days. This method has been too much praised: it is expensive, and produces the cure but slowly. Many patients are unable to support it; it fatigues the chest when the lungs are weak. It is free from odor and uncleanness; but these advantages do not compensate for the tediousness of the treatment. Spirituous fumigations are still less efficacious.

6. Decoction of tobacco; made by putting two ounces of tobacco in a pound of water, and bringing it to the boiling point. Two lotions were employed every day, consisting of half a wine glass full each. Mean time required 20 2-10 days. This method is expensive, and not altogether free from inconvenience, as several instances occurred of nausea and vertigo, while the odor proved harassing to some of the patients.—*Lond. Med. and Phys. Journal.*

VARIETIES.

MR LISTON, THE COMEDIAN.—Mr Liston, the comedian, is subject to the intrusion of the same irregular fancies as are noticed by Locke in his Essay on the Human Understanding. The biographer's account is exceedingly curious. At Charnwood we behold Liston thoughtful, grave, ascetic. From his cradle averse to flesh meat and strong drink; abstemious even beyond the genius of the place; and almost in spite of the circumstances of his great aunt, who, though strict, was not rigid, water was his habitual drink, and his food little beyond the mast and beech nuts of his favorite groves. It is a medical fact, that this kind of diet, however favorable to the contemplative powers of the primitive hermits, &c. is but ill adapted to the less robust minds and bodies of a later generation. Hypochondria almost constantly ensues. It was so in the case of young Liston. He was subject to sights, and had visions. Those arid beech nuts, distilled by a complexion naturally adust, mounted into an occiput, already prepared to kindle by long seclusion, and the fervor of strict Calvinistic notions. In the glooms of Charnwood he was assailed by illusions similar in kind to those which are related of the famous Anthony, of Padua. Wild antic faces would ever and anon protrude themselves upon his sensorium. Whether he shut his eyes or kept them open, the same illusions operated. The darker and more profound were

his cogitations, the droller and more whimsical became the apparitions. They buzzed about him as thick as flies, flapping at him, flouting him, hooting in his ear, yet with such comic appendages, that what at first was his bane, became at length his solace; and he desired no better society than his merry phantasmata. We find him making his debut, as it is called, upon the Norwich boards, in the season of 1801, being then in the twenty-second year of his age. Having a natural bent to tragedy, he chose the part of *Pyrrhus*, in the *Distressed Mother*, to Sally Parker's *Hernione*. We find him afterwards as *Barnwell*, *Altamount*, *Chamont*, &c.; but, as if nature had destined him to the sock, an unavoidable infirmity absolutely incapacitated him for tragedy. His person at this latter period, of which I have been speaking, was graceful and even commanding; his countenance set to gravity; he had the power of arresting the attention of an audience at first sight, almost beyond any other tragic actor. But he could not hold it.—

To understand this obstacle, we must go back a few years to those appalling reveries at Charnwood. Those illusions, which had vanished before the dissipation of a less recluse life, and more free society, now in his solitary tragic studies, and amid the intense calls upon feeling incident to tragic acting, came back upon him with tenfold vividness. In the midst of some most pathetic passages, the parting of *Jaffier* with his dying friend, for instance, he would suddenly be surprised with a fit of violent horse laughter.—While the spectators were all sobbing before him with emotion, suddenly one of the grotesque faces would peep out upon him, and he could not resist the impulse. A timely excuse once or twice served his purpose, but no audience could be expected to bear repeatedly this violation of the continuity of feeling. He describes them (the illusions), as so many demons haunting him, and paralyzing every effect. Even now, I am told, he cannot recite the famous soliloquy of Hamlet, even in private, without immoderate bursts of laughter. However, what he had not force of reason sufficient to overcome, he had good sense enough to turn into emolument, and determined to make a commodity of his distemper.—He prudently exchanged the buskin for the sock, and the illusions instantly ceased; or if they occurred for a short season, by their very co-operation added a zest to his comic vein; some of his most catching faces being (as he expresses it), little more than transcripts and copies of those extraordinary phantasmata.

TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY.—We have already given to our readers a brief account of the Medical School attached to this flourishing university, with a list of the several professors. A long acquaintance with the talents, learning and eloquence of its distinguished president, prepares us to listen with interest and pleasure to the history of its success, and to lose no opportunity of informing the public of the wakeful spirit which prevails among the Faculty in the west; a spirit which is more strongly evinced by the following statement of the number of pupils at the Transylvania Med. School, since the year 1817, than by any speculations which can be offered on the subject. There were in the

Winter of 1817—18	-	-	-	20 pupils
do. 1818—19	-	-	-	00 do.
do. 1819—20	-	-	-	34 do.
do. 1820—21	-	-	-	94 do.
do. 1821—22	-	-	-	133 do.
do. 1822—23	-	-	-	170 do.
do. 1823—24	-	-	-	200 do.
do. 1824—25	-	-	-	234 do.

A pamphlet has been recently published by the Lecturer on Pharmaceutical Chemistry, of this institution, which will be more particularly noticed in a future No.

EXTRAORDINARY SURGICAL OPERATION.—The operation of tapping the head for water on the brain, was performed by Surgeon Gray, of this town (Galway), on Monday last, on a child nine months old. He drew off more than ten ounces of water, which gave the child great relief. Should the child even *not* recover, which, from the generally diseased and deformed state of the body, is perhaps to be wished for, yet we think the performance of such operations should be made public, as they may lead to more successful practice in that very unmanageable disease.

SPOTTED FEVER.—Five cases of this fever are reported in the town of Winthrop (Me). The three first were children of Mr Orchard Cook, two of whom died in a little over twelve hours from the attack, and the other within thirty-six hours. The two remaining cases are likely to terminate favorably.

TOBACCO.—A child 6 years old, died recently in consequence of swallowing a piece of tobacco half smoked.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

Ending March 18; from the Health-Office Returns.

March 9.—John A. Shaw, 42; Harriet T. Hudson, 24; Eliza Smith, 20. 10th.—Mary Cassell, 32. 11th.—Nancy Upham; William Aberback, 55. 12th.—John Whalen. 13th.—Paulina Ballard, 3; Eleanor Cassey, 10 mo.; Sarah Williston, 7 weeks; Lydia Antoni. 14th.—Susan Delany, 38; Betsey Tucker, 35; Ann Maria Fox, 6 months; Moses F. Pike. 15th.—James W. Hauthwat, 16 mo. 16th.—Eunice Parker, 57; Lucius Doolittle, 2; William Henry Emes, 9 mo. 17th.—Child of William Prescott, 5 days; Timothy Hunt, 52. 18th.—William Honner.

Consumption, 8—Suicide, by Poison, 1—Lung Fever, 1—Hooping Cough, 1—Fits, 1—Apoplexy, 1—Infantile, 1—Cancer, 1—Measles, 1. City Poor, 4.

DIED.—In Washington, Dr JOHN HARRISON, of the Navy.

In Norfolk, Virg. Dr ISAIAH SANBORN, a highly respectable inhabitant of the town of Hertford, N. C.—Dr S. was a native of Poplin, N. H. and has relations in Hallowell, Me.

Advertisement.

HAVING purchased of Messrs Munroe & Francis, the long-established and popular periodical, called the *Athenaeum*, or *Spirit of the English Magazines* (containing selections from the *Gentleman's*—*Lady's*—*European*—*Monthly*—*New Monthly*—*Sporting*—*Edinburgh*—*Blackwood's*—*Asiatic*—*London*—*Imperial*—*La Belle Assemblee*—*Ackerman's Repository*—and other Magazines; *Literary Gazette*—*Bell's Messenger*, &c. &c.) the subscriber will earnestly endeavor to continue its usefulness, and to render it as acceptable to its numerous patrons as it has heretofore been; and, having for this purpose made arrangements for the early reception of the most approved English periodical publications, such selections will be made as it is hoped will satisfy the reader, whether seeking information or amusement. The work will be printed on new type and fine paper, and published on the 1st and 15th of every month, each No. containing 40 pages, large octavo, at 5 dollars per annum, or 2,50, for six months. Subscriptions received for either term. Those gentlemen who have assisted in the distribution, are requested to continue their agency on the same terms.

The first No. of Vol. 3, New Series, will be published April 1, at the corner of Washington and Franklin Streets, (formerly 47 Marlboro'-Street.)

JOHN COTTON.

Boston, March 15, 1825.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER :

Published weekly, at two dollars a year, in advance. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

OBSERVATIONS.

On the Natural History and Medical use of the Leech; with some account of the Mode of managing Leeches, as well as of applying them, and Stopping the Bleeding from their Bites.

(Continued from page 181.)

6. THE MODE OF ENCOURAGING THE BLEEDING AFTER THE LEECHES HAVE FALLEN OFF.

This is generally done by covering the bites with sponge or cloths wrung out of warm water. In many cases this is a very good plan, because it subjects the part to a useful kind of emollient fomentation; as when the leeches are applied for local external inflammations, such as of joints or other parts, or to tumors.

In other cases, however, this fomentation is not so useful; as when leeches are applied to the head for the headach, or for the hydrocephalus of children. On such occasions it is a good plan to bind a napkin round the bleeding part, and change it as often as it may be necessary; or in hydrocephalus, to resume the use of any cold application to the head, which will generally form part of the treatment. It is true, that by so doing, the bleeding is sooner stopped; but this difficulty is obviated by applying more leeches in the first instance, which will secure the proper quantity of blood being drawn, and at less trouble to the patient. The difficulty of stopping the bleeding of leeches forms no objection to this plan, because with very moderate attention the bites of leeches may always be commanded.

Another method of encouraging the bleeding of leeches, is to apply a warm bread and water poultice over the bites, and change it once in about five minutes. This answers very well, if care be taken not to apply the poultice too hot: for it often happens, that the bleeding of leeches is in this way prematurely arrested.

When it is desirable to take away as much blood as possible, and the part will admit of it, a cupping glass applied over the leech bites will increase the bleeding very much. Of course, this plan is not applicable when the leeches are used for external inflammations; indeed, in such cases, leeches are particularly valuable, because cupping cannot be resorted to.

7. THE MODE OF STOPPING THE BLEEDING OF LEECH-BITES.

This section forms an important branch of the present inquiry. The bleeding of leech-bites is very uncertain, the orifices often closing soon after the leeches have fallen off, so that but little blood is obtained; whilst they will as often continue to bleed most profusely for many hours, and in this way, either endanger the life of the child, to whom it generally occurs, or reduce him to a state of great weakness. On more occasions than one the writer has seen this happen, and cases are recorded, in which death has followed the application of even a limited number of leeches.

Medical men generally calculate on the continuance of bleeding for three or four hours; but they are often sent for in a great hurry to calm

the apprehensions of a patient's friends, by closing the oozing orifices. These apprehensions are generally unfounded; but, in almost all cases, it is found, that from ignorance of the proper mode of stopping the bleeding, the nursery is a scene of confusion and helpless terror. Practitioners often smile on these occasions, in wonder that it should not sometimes occur to an unprofessional person, that a finger placed on each of the leech bites will command the bleeding for as long a time as it held there; and that thus all apprehensions may be, in every instance, calmed in a moment. But no, the fright of the moment takes away all reasoning power, the child is covered by bundles of cloths or a mass of flour, or hat fur, or other similar substances, from under which the blood issues in defiance of means so inefficient.

Neither hair-powder, nor flour, nor the fur of hats, nor other applications of that kind, will be of the least avail, where the bleeding is so violent as to require to be restrained by artificial means. There are, however, numerous modes of restraining hemorrhage from leech bites, several of which are at the command of every one.

A finger placed on the orifice, commands the bleeding as is stated above; but as the blood in drying, glues it to the skin, the bleeding generally recurs, on account of the violence necessary in removing the finger; or it is inconvenient to hold it there long enough, permanently to close the orifice in the bleeding vessel.

It is easy to turn this glueing property of the blood to good account. A lady had a leech bite on her temple, which bled profusely, in spite of the skilful application of caustic, which is in almost every case, effectual. A bit of rag, half an inch square was placed on the leech-bite, care being taken, that the part was, at the moment, as free from blood as possible. This bit of linen was held on by the finger. In about five minutes, it was found, that the blood had glued the linen to the part, and as sufficient blood had not been allowed to collect underneath, to wet the linen through, and thus fasten the finger to the linen, the former removed, the linen remained, and the bleeding did not return.

This method has been repeatedly used successfully since that time; and it seems, that Mr Abernethy teaches his pupils to stop the bleeding of leeches in the same way. Mr A. uses lint instead of linen; this is an improvement, for as the lint is thicker than the linen, it is almost impossible for the finger to be glued to the former; thus obviating the only cause of failure, in restraining the bleeding of leeches by this mode.

The application of lunar caustic is a very effectual mode of arresting the bleeding of leeches; but it requires to be used with great care, otherwise an unseemly mark will be left behind, and the surrounding parts will be injured by the spreading of the caustic to them. The piece of caustic should be tied in a quill, and sharpened to a fine point, by rubbing it on a rough sandstone. The point is then to be introduced into each orifice, and held there for about five seconds. The application may be repeated if nec-

essary. A black scab is formed, which falls off in a day or two.

Even vinegar, when applied to the wounds, will often be sufficient to stop the bleeding; but the aromatic Thieve's vinegar, will be effectual in almost every instance. This latter plan, however, should not be resorted to, unless the others, above recommended, fail; for it gives pain, and requires care in the application. The best way is, to take up as small a part of a drop as possible, on the point of a blunt stocking-needle, and insert the point thus armed into each orifice.

A needle's point may also be used in the same way, when armed, by dipping it, wet, in a little powdered lunar caustic.

Powdered alum will often answer very well; and powdered emetic tartar very certainly.

Another plan still remains, which although it will never fail, need not be resorted to in any case. Heat the pointed end of a small needle by holding it in the flame of a candle, and bend it into a small semi-circle. Pass this through the bleeding orifice, and wrap thread round it, as is done round the pin which is used to secure the vein when horses are bled.

It will perhaps be useful to add, that leech-bites cease to bleed naturally, by the extravasation of blood under the skin, which, by coagulating, closes the orifice in the bleeding vessel. It is not known, why these bites bleed so very much more copiously, than similar wounds made in any other way. The question is a very curious one.

AMPUTATION.

M. Dupuytren objects altogether to the practice of dividing the skin, the superficial, and the deep-seated muscles by distinct incisions; according to him it is making three or four amputations of one limb; he thinks it better to cut at one time, and with one incision, the integuments, which are drawn up by an assistant, and all the muscles down to the bone: then, allowing the attraction of all the parts, and an assistant still drawing them up, the adherent muscles are cut through, and the bone sawed on a level with them. The operation is thus performed with great rapidity, and with only two incisions.

AMPUTATION OF THE SHOULDER JOINT.—M. Dupuytren proposes two operations for this purpose, one of which we give.

"The arm being raised so as to form a right angle with the body, the heel of the knife is placed a little below, and in front of the point of the acromion: from this all the posterior parts of the shoulder are steadily divided by one incision, including the posterior fold of the axilla: a flap is thus formed, which being raised, exposes the posterior part of the joint: the elbow is then inclined forwards against the thorax, and the head of the humerus being thus made prominent, the tendons and back part of the capsule, are divided upon it. The knife then turns round the head of the bone, from behind forwards, and the operation is finished by making the anterior

flap, the artery being compressed in it before it is divided."

AMPUTATION OF THE FORE-ARM AT THE ELBOW-JOINT.—"The fore-arm being slightly bent, a straight double-edged knife is thrust transversely in front of the articulation, from one condyle of the humerus to the other, and a flap made from the upper part of the fore-arm. The flap being raised, the capsule and lateral ligaments are divided by a second incision, and the operation is concluded by sawing through the olecranon, or dividing the tendon attached to it. The vessels being tied, the flap is carried from before backwards over the end of the humerus, and fixed by strips of plaster."

M. Dupuytren recommends the olecranon to be sawn through, as it then continues to afford a solid attachment to the tendon of the triceps.

AMPUTATION OF THE METATARSUS AT ITS JUNCTION WITH THE TARSUS.—This operation was first methodically described by M. Lisfranc, who gives the following directions for performing it. It must be premised, that the line of the tarsal articulations, of the metatarsus is marked at each extremity by the projections formed by the ends of the first and fifth metatarsal bones, and the internal extremity of this line is placed half an inch more forwards than the external.

"The extremities of this line being ascertained, the surgeon places the thumb and fore finger of his left hand on them, grasping the plantar surface of the foot. He then makes an incision on the dorsal surface, half an inch in front of the joints; the integuments having retracted, he divides the tendons of the extensor muscles. The knife, which should be small, strong, and sharp, is then carried behind the tarsal extremity of the fifth metatarsal bone, and its point brought from the outer side inwards, and from behind forwards, as far as the second metatarsal bone, where it stops. The three joints over which it passes are easily opened, and only their dorsal ligaments are to be divided. That done, the knife is to be carried to the inner side of the foot, where the joint of the first metatarsal bone, with the cuneiform, is to be cut into a direction from the inner side outwards, and from before backwards. It only remains to disarticulate the second metatarsal bone: for that purpose, the point of the knife must be introduced below, into the space separating the first cuneiform from the second metatarsal bone, and the handle of the knife being depressed, the strong ligament connecting these two bones is to be cut through. The rest then becomes easy: the joint is opened from its dorsal surface; the half detached part of the foot is depressed; the inter-articular ligaments cut through, and the knife placed horizontally below the posterior extremities of the metatarsal bones. Being then carried forward in close contact with them, a lower flap is made, longer on the inner than on the outer side, and capable of covering the exposed surfaces of the tarsal bones."

WHETHER EATING IN COMPANY BE CONDUCTIVE TO HEALTH.

Doctor Vasse discussed this question seriously in the school of the faculty of medicine at Paris, and gravely determined it in the affirmative. that eating and drinking in company is really

conducive to health. He published this medical question, and his curious illustration of it. He divides entertainments into several classes; ordinary and extraordinary. The first consists of meats of a moderate price, in the other they are more extensive and splendid. At public entertainments, several families form one company: and at private ones, there is only the daily preparation. He then enumerates many kinds of sociable meals; as the pascal lamb among the Jews, the love-feasts among the primitive Christians, wedding-dinners, merry-makings, twelfth-day, Carnival, and St Martin's day.

Undertaking to shew the advantages of eating in company, he fixes three properties of the meals under consideration, viz. animal, moral, natural, or physical. The first are such as do good to the body, the second benefit the mind, and the third are useful to both. Man, says the doctor, is an animal formed for society; he is led by example, and imitates what he sees done. If he observes another eat, he is desirous of doing the same, and his mouth immediately waters. This water is the saliva which dissolves the food, renders it more savory, and whets the appetite. That being sharpened, we eat with pleasure and grind our meat better. Where conversation and mirth preside at a table, we are obliged to keep the meat longer in our mouths, it is more penetrated with saliva, and digests better. The blood and spirits are in better order, the nutritive juice becomes sweeter, the circulation of liquid is more completely executed, the heart, the seat of joy, is dilated, and all the functions of the body conspire, with a sort of emulation to promote health. The advantages accruing from eating in company are numerous; it always diverts chagrin and melancholy to dine with a number of people. The bare sight of many eating, drinking and singing inspires good humour, the healths that pass around, and agreeable conversation rouse the soul and make it shake off all dismal ideas. An union of persons either begins or is cemented, and misunderstandings are composed or removed.

In regard to the utility of entertainments to the whole man, we must know, that such is the intimate connection between the soul and body, that what is useful to the one must infallibly be so to the other.

But our author goes one step further, as exercise is of no inconsiderable use, eating in company appears worthy of recommendation on that score. Here, says he, I will be asked what exercise I mean, is it that of the teeth, which communicates electric motion to the frame? To which I answer, it is the motion of the hands and body in carrying and helping, in accepting thanks and returning them, in the lively gestures before dinner, and the no less sprightly ones after it.

But there is one material objection, which should be removed, namely, that these entertainments are frequently productive of much disorder and irregularity, and therefore ought not to be indulged. To this our doctor replies, that abuses will insinuate themselves every where, so that if all that is perverted should be prohibited, even eating and drinking, and other innocent and useful human acts, would incur the charge of criminality. Allowing evils sometimes to arise, are they not counterbalanced by the good arising from these entertainments.

Such are the arguments used by Dr Vasse to prove eating in company is conducive to health. They certainly evince the taste of the doctor and the faculty for good cheer. Besides doing his duty to the public as a physician, in enforcing an interesting medical precept, the ideas, as well as the reality of which gives rapture to the hungry and pleasure to the full epicure, we find he had another object in view; it seems there were some pragmatists, mortified, and penurious licentiates in divinity, who, he justly remarks, had a zeal, but not according to knowledge, who wished to put a stop to entertainments given to their fellow-students when they received the academic cap; but the parliament of Paris by an arret continued the old laudable custom, and good cheer triumphed over the sour moroseness of these unenlightened theologians.

EARLY RISING.

To rise early is so truly the one thing needful above all—to all who are candidates for either of those capital prizes—Health, Wealth, or Wisdom, that it is the only sure foundation for securing any chance of obtaining either of them.

"He that would thrive
Must rise by Five;—
He that has thriven
May lie till Seven."

Instances may be found (but very seldom), of persons who have sat up late becoming wealthy, but they have paid for it the unwise price of their health. You cannot remember one solitary example of a sluggard having ever obtained one of these blessings of life.—"Shake off dull sloth, and early rise."—There is no time spent so stupidly as that which inconsiderate people pass in a morning between sleeping and waking. He who is awake may be at work or at play; he who is asleep is receiving the refreshment necessary to fit him for action; but the hours spent in dozing and slumbering are wasted, without either pleasure or profit.—The sooner you leave your bed, the seldomer you will be confined to it. When old people have been examined in order to ascertain the cause of their longevity, they have uniformly agreed in one thing only, that they "all went to bed and all rose early."—*Gazette*.

Nonsense.—There is no end to the humbug stories about the benefits of early rising. There are some constitutions, no doubt, it may agree with very well; but generally it is a matter of mere moonshine, and often extremely injurious. In England, where we see such numbers of old persons, they rise much later than we do generally in this country; and the French, who *live all the days of their lives*, breakfast at ten in their night-caps.

ON VOMITING.

In our last number we spoke of the *process* of vomiting, and were led, almost unavoidably, to make a few remarks touching the mode in which that process is induced. It remains that we say a few words on—

2d. **THE EFFECTS OF VOMITING.** The good effects of vomiting are declared by the numerous diseases in the cure of which it is chiefly depended on. To enumerate these diseases would be a tedious and an endless task. Generally, they are those in which the matter contained in the stomach is in too great a quantity, or of an injurious quality; and those in which there exists too great general or local irritation. In the first place,

the quantity of matter in the stomach may be so great that vomiting takes place without the assistance of emetic substances; but when unpleasant sensations are produced, but the quantity is not sufficient to interrupt the wonted functions of the organ, an emetic is, of course, indicated, which will produce an expeditious emesis. A famous quack, who was tried not long ago for murdering a patient with his medicine, believed that particular emetics acted on specific substances in the stomach; and he contended that if a man had eaten for dinner roasted beef and potatoes, one emetic would evacuate the beef and leave the potatoes to pursue calmly their proper course; and that another would cause the evacuation of the potatoes only. Ipecacuanha, with sulphate of zinc or copper, is peculiarly well suited to effect an evacuation, where the difficulty does not extend beyond the stomach; for its operation occurs so rapidly that it is more confined than most other emetics in its theatre of action. The superior excellence of ipecacuanha in such diseases is established by long experience. This substance was brought to Europe about the middle of the 17th century, and introduced into general practice by Helvetius, in the end of the same century, under the patronage of Lewis XIV.

If a more permanent effect is required, and a diaphoresis to be produced, the tartrate of antimony is preferable to any other; for this is slow in its operation, and is therefore more intimately mixed with the contents of the alimentary canal, and progresses in it much farther before its emetic properties are developed; and as the emesis does not produce a total evacuation of the medicine, that which is left behind, must make its escape through the kidneys, or those more hidden avenues, the emunctories of the skin.

Of diseases of the first kind we mentioned, where the stomach contained substances of an injurious nature, or in too great quantity, the principal are—1st. Apoplexy after a generous meal, where the emetic is usually preceded by venesection. 2d. Asthma, when it arises from a pressure against the diaphragm from below; and 3d. When any poisonous substance is suspected to be contained in the stomach.

Of diseases of the second kind, where there is general or local irritation, or a more permanent effect is to be produced on the system, the principal are—1st. Fevers, intermittent and continued, except they be characterized by a remarkable prostration of strength. 2d. Exanthemata, where they are given (from their well known property of determining to the surface), to counteract a tendency to reversion, or to contend with it after it has occurred. 3d. All inflammatory diseases, except where the inflammation is seated in the alimentary canal, in which case the stomach is so exceedingly sensible that the action of vomiting might increase the evil. Venesection often precedes them in these diseases, and existing circumstances often require an omission of both. 4th. Most diseases arising from obstruction, where the dry vomit particularly produces such a sudden and violent action of the whole system, that all the avenues in the body are opened, and there occurs so copious a flow of the various secretions, that the cause of disease is mechanically removed, and perhaps an absorption of the collected fluids promoted.—The use of emetics in hæmoptysis has been doubted by many, while others have esteemed them the only effectual means of removing the disease. Dr Robinson has recorded many cases of hemorrhage from the lungs, where vomiting was undoubtedly the means of preserving life. One of these cases we will relate. He was called to a

patient who was spitting blood, and found the hæmoptysis exceedingly violent; it yielded, however, readily, to an emetic. The hemorrhage returned, and the emetic was repeated with equal success. This patient was made to vomit once a day for a whole year, and ordered to take milk, claret and meat for dinner. Under this treatment he gained strength and flesh; but going to Paris, and his bleeding returning, he was put under different orders, and soon died. Dr Rees tells us that he has treated more than forty cases with emetics, and, in all, his highest hopes have been realized. We knew a woman, who, in the agitation of mind caused by a frightful dream, sprang suddenly from her bed, and a copious hemorrhage immediately took place from her lungs. She sent for her physician, who prescribed an emetic of ipecac and sulphate of copper, with which he succeeded in stopping the hemorrhage; it recurred on the second day, when the emetic was repeated with similar success; and being ordered to take 10 grains of Dover's powder with a little acetite of lead every morning, the bleeding had not returned when last we heard from her, which was more than a month after the first bleeding. In hæmoptysis, then, vomiting appears to be decidedly useful. In many diseases of minor importance, it is used as an auxiliary, with marked advantage.

Emetics are not indicated in a plethoric habit; where there is a determination of blood to the head; in advanced stages of pregnancy; in hernia; or extreme debility. Besides the emetics which have been spoken of, hellebore is, we believe, coming into frequent use. It has been recommended in the dissertations for the Boylston Prize, on the subject of indigenous emetics; and indeed, this was the medicine which was first used by Hippocrates in a disease called leucophlegmatia or dropsy. He also, and many other physicians of ancient times, used this medicine as an emetic, in cases of melancholy and madness; so that the phrase, *to have need of hellebore*, became a proverbial expression for being out of one's senses.

As to the doses of emetics, different constitutions require them so very different to produce the same effect, that we can scarcely prescribe the limits beyond which they should not be used. It is true that Physicians err oftener by not giving a sufficient quantity, than on the other extreme; and as it is less important how much of an emetic be given at a time than of any other medicine; we can only say what is the least dose that should ever be prescribed, and be guided beyond that *per rerum natura*. We knew a gentleman confined with peripneumonia, and a speedy evacuation of the stomach being required, his Physician gave him 10 grains of ipecacuanha, and 5 grains of sulphate of copper, which quantity of the latter is considered an extreme dose. As this produced no effect, in ten minutes the same dose was repeated. As both these did not operate in ten minutes, a third succeeded in producing the desired evacuation. But the vomiting was not unusually violent, though the patient had taken in thirty minutes, thirty grains of ipecacuanha, and fifteen grains of sulphate of copper. The remark is equally true with regard to tartar emetic. Dr B****, a Physician in Warren, in the state of Maine, told us that his wife, wishing to mix for herself a little of the cream of tartar and flowers of sulphur, went to the closet in which he kept his medicines, and, through mistake, mixed tartar emetic with the flowers of sulphur, and took two full tea-spoons of it, expecting, without doubt, to derive very salutary relief from this medicine of her own mixture. In a short time she was apprised of her error; but al-

though at least 20 grains of the tartrate of ant. must have been contained in two tea-spoonsful of this mixture, Mrs B. received no injury from its effects; but rather this very important advantage, that it taught her never to meddle with medicine until she had learned the art. Thus we see that as the substances given to excite the resentment of the guardians of the stomach, are themselves the subject of that resentment, it is of little consequence how great is their quantity or power.

TIC DOLOUREUX—CURABLE.

It has been announced in several newspapers that his Lordship, the Duke of Wellington, is suffering severely by "that incurable disease, the tic douloureux." Be it known, that the word "incurable" is, fortunately, entirely out of place in this connection. There is indeed now and then a case which resists our most powerful and well directed remedies; but this is true also of intermittent fever, rheumatism, and fifty other complaints, which none but a crazy man or a dunce would call incurable. Nineteen cases in twenty of the tic douloureux are perfectly manageable. The seat of the disease and its nature are thoroughly understood, and the mode of treatment is far from being complicate.

Let the patient's constitutional peculiarities be ascertained, the state also of the digestive organs, and the cause of the derangement. Indications of cure sufficiently clear will be suggested by such investigation, and abandoning all local applications, which, whether potent or paltry, are equally incapable of reaching the cause of the complaint, let the intelligent practitioner look well to the primæ viæ, and he will find that ninety five cases in a hundred will yield, and half these by the mere administration of a drop or two of croton oil, succeeded by a few weeks' use of the carbonate of iron.

Of about twenty cases of this painful affection which it has fallen to our lot to manage within the last five years, every one has been cured, and that too without an instance of a subsequent attack. If, therefore, the view we have taken is correct, though the noble lord may suffer even yet perhaps by the disease, there no reason why the profession should suffer in the estimation of the public, as it certainly must if it is supposed to permit *tic douloureux* to pass as *incurable*, and as it certainly ought if there were any grounds for such a supposition.

INFLUENZA.

A correspondent to the Troy Sentinel has published in that paper the following speculations. He seems to have understood our article on the present season and its diseases to have attributed the prevailing influenza to "wet feet" as the *predisposing* cause: whereas we mentioned that occurrence as the most general of the exciting causes of the epidemic as it undoubtedly was. By referring to an article in our 43d No., "on the Constitution of the Atmosphere" the author will perceive that his sentiments correspond pretty nearly with our own.

Having noticed in your paper some observations on the season, ascribing the cause of the prevailing influenza to wet feet, the effect of the "March weather" which has prevailed through the winter, I have been induced to offer some remarks, as conjecturing appears to be the province of all men. On taking a view of the past winter, we shall find that the most constant winds which have prevailed have been southerly winds, consequently the winter open

and moderate. Now as it is well known that in all parts of the earth, the winds are more or less salubrious according to the direction in which they blow, the country over which they pass, and the exhalations with which they are charged, may we not with more propriety look for the cause of most all *epidemic diseases* to which man and other animals are subject as existing in the *atmosphere* which has been previously infected or rendered unwholesome by noxious vapors from the earth or from some other cause. The dreadful *Samoul* that blows near Bagdad, comes laden with almost instant death—the *Sirocco* of Italy is a sickly gale, and the baleful influence of winds is felt in many other parts of the earth. In our climate the north and north west wind coming over land from colder regions is dry, cold, salubrious and invigorating; yet when it is frequently met in winter by the humid easterly winds from the Atlantic, it often produces deadly effects on the constitution of animals.—The prevalence of southerly winds in our climate in the latter part of summer or in autumn, have probably occasioned epidemic diseases almost as severe as those in the southern climates, and we may always expect disagreeable consequences from the long prevalence of southerly winds in any season of the year. These winds being surcharged with the vast accumulation of vapors and exhalations of the south, our atmosphere every where becomes loaded, and not being sufficiently corrected by lightning or cold, the purifiers of the air, epidemic diseases are often the consequence, which may prevail more or less in different situations, the air being variously infected on shores, plains, and in the deep valleys of the mountains. Our southerly winds, which I shall denominate unwholesome winds, may be compared to a huge bellows in the heavens, progressing northwardly in its course sucking up the atmosphere of one climate and discharging it out in the other. Keeping dry feet may be for the health of all, and especially delicate constitutions, but if wet feet were the only cause of the prevailing influenza, how happens it that hundreds of children in the country as well as other persons of robust constitutions who are accustomed to wet feet almost daily through the winter, should be seized now with a disease which the same cause has not heretofore produced?—a disease which they would probably have had if they had been exposed to the influence of the air only riding on horse-back with their feet wrapped in dry flannel and covered with India-rubber overshoes. With a pure air to breathe in, and pure water to drink, man would be subject to few diseases.

AN OBSERVER OF NATURE.

VARIETIES.

PRINCE HOHENLOHE AND ANOTHER MIRACLE.—The Georgetown Metropolitan, of the first instant, contains an extract from a pamphlet published by the "sisters of the visitation, in Georgetown, D. C." setting forth the wonderful cure of sister Beatrix, one of the sisterhood. The statement in short hand is this. Four of the sisterhood were dangerously sick, and considered past relief. It was therefore resolved to resort to prayer, "and according to former indications of Prince Hohenlohe, we began a novena of prayers for them on the first of this month," (this extract is from the pamphlet.) On Thursday, the 10th of February, at 2 o'clock in the morning, "corresponding to the

time when the prince must have said mass in Germany," after the spiritual father had administered the sacrament, and while the mother and five sisters were kneeling in the room, sister Beatrix proclaimed that she felt that she was cured—got up—left her bed, and proceeded to the chapel. She had been sick two years. The cure is certified by the attending physician, D. Bohrer, M. D. who states, "I discover, now, no marks of disease whatever, unless a pulse more frequent than should occur in health, may be considered so." The particulars of the case are given in quite a modest and unassuming manner, and are well authenticated. The catholics, no doubt, will be disposed to claim this as a miracle, but in regard to viewing it in this light, we beg leave to say that we are a little sceptical.

Franklin Herald.

MEDICAL STUDENTS.—Believing it would be interesting to the Profession to know the number of Medical Students attending Lectures in the Medical Colleges of the United States, the Proprietor of the Medical Recorder has taken considerable pains to ascertain it, and from the best information he could obtain they stand thus:

Dartmouth Medical College, N. H.	-	80
Berkshire Medical Institution at Pittsfield, Mass.	100	
Massachusetts Medical College,	-	130
Castleton do. Vt	-	130
Western District Medical College, N. Y.	100	
New Haven do. Conn.	-	110
University of New York,	-	220
Do. Pennsylvania,	-	480
Do. Maryland,	-	250
Do. Transylvania, Ky.	-	200
Charleston Medical College, S. C.	-	50
Cincinnati, Ohio, do. do.	-	40

1890

WORCESTER PRIZE ESSAY.—A premium of five dollars will be awarded by the three senior Officers of Williams College, to the best original Essay on the evils of Intemperance and the most effectual means of prevention; sent, post paid, before the first day of August next, by an alumnus or undergraduate of that College. No Essay to be more than thirty minutes long.—Each one should have some name written on it, and be accompanied with a sealed paper containing the true name of the writer and superscribed with the name written on the Essay. The sealed papers covering the names of unsuccessful competitors will be destroyed unopened, and the Essays delivered to any persons authorized to receive them. No Essay will be entitled to the premium unless deemed worthy of it, though it should prove to be the best. The successful Essay will be published, with such corrections as may be deemed necessary.

SMITH ON DIGESTION.—Dr N. R. Smith professor of anatomy and physiology in the University of Vermont, and who has been recently elected a professor in the new School at Philadelphia, has published a pamphlet of 93 pages on the Physiology of Digestion.—It contains his own speculations on the subject, and his own views of the different theories which have been previously advanced.

HOSPITAL AT PROVIDENCE.—A hospital and quarantine establishment are in contemplation at Providence R. I. and a lot on Fields Point has been selected and purchased for its location.

LUMBRICI.—Dr James Moore, of Shelbyville, Kentucky, has communicated a case of worms, in which, after the evacuation of from 700 to 1000 lumbrici, a substance of the size of the finger, distended and ready to burst, was discharged; on opening it, innumerable small maggots appeared which he conjectured to be lumbrici.

BILIOUS FEVER.—Dr Richard Cochran, of Columbia, has used with great success, a tea-spoon full of powdered charcoal, given every half hour in vomiting during bilious fever. He borrowed the practice from Dr Kerr of New-Orleans, who used it in Yellow-Fever.

Dr Richard Emmons, of the Great Crossings, Kentucky, recommends a combination of two grs. of gamboge, and one of tart. emetic given at small and re-

peated intervals in bilious fever as a purgative, which is easily taken, operates gently, effectually, and without griping, or producing vomiting.

IMPORTANT.—Several graduates have been rejected by the Naval Medical Committee, at their late examination. This furnishes our schools with new excitement to emulation. In initiating our youth into the elements of medicine, our teachers cannot be too much on the alert.

SINGULAR FACTS.—Dr Harder observed in a man, 73 years old, laboring under attacks of gout, after the sudden disappearance of the attacks, an innumerable quantity of little pale lice upon the whole surface of the body, which, after being repeatedly removed, again re-appeared. It seems that the appearance of the lice was critical, for, after a new attack of gout, they disappeared suddenly.

Dr Rush relates the case of a woman whose perspiration had the smell and taste of vinegar.

Dr Harder gives an account of a boy whose sweat tinged his linen blue.

POWER OF VEGETABLE LIFE.—A branch of the *cotyledon coccinea* was presented by Professor Gazzari to the Academi dei Georfiles, in January, 1824. Although it had been separated from the mother branch more than sixteen months, during which time it had been wrapped up in paper and set aside by accident in a dark dry place, yet it was in full vegetation, affording a strong illustration of the vital power of some plants.

MR AMESBURY'S APPARATUS.—Mr Amesbury has improved his apparatus for the treatment of fractures, which have not united, by the addition of pressure made from the sole of the foot upwards, so as to excite inflammation in the cavity of the artificial joint. This is an ingenious and valuable idea.

COLD AFFUSION IN CASES OF CROUP.—The cold affusion in cases of croup, recommended by Dr HARDER, has made great sensation, but has not been much used. Dr Harder asserts, however, the utility of these affusions by some recent experiments and observations.

CURE FOR CANCER.—In Anderson's Quarterly Journal is a detail of four cases of cancer cured by an adherence to the antiphlogistic treatment.

CURE FOR MOLES.—A celebrated physician recommends, in cases of moles, to besmear the mole with concentrated nitric acid, and to repeat this operation, at various times, till the skin shrivels and drops off.

Old Dr Hunter used to say, when he could not discover the cause of a man's sickness, "We'll try this, and we'll try that. We'll shoot into the tree, and if any thing falls, well and good." "Aye," replied a wag, "I fear this is too commonly the case, and in your shooting into the tree, the first thing that generally falls is—the patient."

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending March 25; from the Health-Office Returns.

March 19.—Mary Rindge, 28; Thomas Peirce, 39; John Clowes; Julia Ann Milner; Lucy Freeman.—20th.—Abigail Chapman, 2. 21st.—Philip Wood, 34; Mary E. Powars, 21. 22d.—Mary Ann Bemis, 18; — Swain; — Patterson, 4 weeks; Charles B. Sumner, 8; John Turner, 30. 23d.—John Hurley, 63; Lemuel B. Spear, 40; William Low, 8; James Ensley; Henry Maycock; James O. Soule, 2. 24th.—Mary K. Farney, 31; — Lovett, 9 days. 25th.—Daniel D. Rogers, 73; — Lord.

Inflammation, 1—Quinsey, 1—Intemperance, 1—Infantile, 1—Measles, 1—Consumption, 4—Stillborn, 1—Drowned, 1—Worm Fever, 1—Fils, 1—Suicide, 1—Dropsy in the Head, 1,

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER :

Published weekly, at two dollars a year, in advance. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

OBSERVATIONS.

On the Natural History and Medical use of the Leech; with some account of the Mode of managing Leeches, as well as of applying them, and Stopping the Bleeding from their Bites.

(Continued from page 185.)

8. THE BEST SITUATION ON WHICH TO APPLY LEECHES.

It is commonly recommended, that leeches should be applied on such parts only, as have a bone underneath them, and will therefore allow of a more decided pressure being made afterwards; but there is no part, however soft, in which the bleeding may not be restrained, as is shown above, with great ease.

In children, the head, the throat, and the chest, are the parts on which leeches are commonly applied; for, the uninjured constitution of children are seldom affected by external, local inflammations, for which leeches are so often required in adults; their complaints being generally of the class of acute inflammatory disorders, such as water in the head, inflamed eyes, and inflammation of the bronchial membrane, or lungs, or of the windpipe and adjacent parts.

Their use, however, is becoming more general in the bowel-affections of children; it being now ascertained, that many of these complaints are intimately connected with a state of inflammation of the mucous membrane, which lines the bowels.

When applied for general affections of the head, it is immaterial, whether they be placed on one side or the other, on the temples or behind the ears; and as in all these diseases, exposure of the head to the external air is recommended on other grounds, the after-bleeding may be encouraged by the application of linen wrung out of warm water. But in inflammation of the windpipe, or chest, or abdomen, as exposure of the skin to cold is very detrimental, it is always better to apply more leeches than are absolutely required, and to be content with absorbing the blood as it flows, by means of pieces of dry linen.

But if this plan be adopted, great care is required, that the bleeding be not carried too far. The part must be very frequently examined, and if the child become pale or faint, the orifices must be closed immediately.

In adults, leeches may be applied on almost every part. They are often used for head-ache, and the general direction is to put so many on each temple. They may as well be placed on one side, and the trouble is infinitely less if it be so done. It is commonly more convenient to place them behind the ear, and that part is quite as good as the temples or forehead. It is indeed better; for, in certain constitutions, leech-bites occasion an unpleasant swelling and erysipelatous inflammation of the skin, and as this produces a very unsightly appearance, when it affects the skin round the eyes, it would often be avoided, if leeches were applied behind the ears, instead of on the temples.

Many practitioners are accustomed to place leeches even on the edge of the eye-lids; and

certainly often with impunity. But, in one such case, each of the bites formed an abscess; and, as there were several of them, they united together, and formed one large abscess round the lower eye-lid, which was long in healing.

The French too, are in the habit of applying leeches even on the inside of the lower eye-lid; and doubtless, were it certain that the evil above-mentioned would not occur, the practice would be exceedingly efficacious. The writer has not tried it, but as the chance of evil is small, and the advantage great, he would not neglect it in a severe case, especially as the French author states, that the leeches scarcely leave any mark on the bitten part; seeming rather to prove, that the great cause of erysipelas following leech-bites is the skin, that tissue of nerves and other irritable parts, being acted on by the bite, more easily than other less irritable structures would be.

9. THE BAD EFFECTS WHICH FOLLOW THE APPLICATION OF LEECHES.

The erysipelas above-mentioned forms the chief external bad consequence of using leeches: and it is often very distressing to the patient, especially when it occurs, as it chiefly does, on the head. The eyes are often closed by the effusion of limpid fluid into the loose cellular membrane, which forms the eye-lids, whilst the skin below the eyes is black from effused blood, just as in the case of a bruise to any other part of the body. In one gentleman, the application of leeches invariably produced severe erysipelas.

The mode of treating this affection must depend on the state of the patient's constitution; for it is always produced by the habit being predisposed to be thus irritated, and not by any thing noxious in the particular leeches employed. Generally speaking, time only is required to dissipate these unpleasant appearances; but lotions containing vinegar are perhaps more efficacious in removing effused blood from under the skin, than any other application. These lotions may be applied by means of folds of linen, and may be advantageously used hot, especially in the last stages, after the swelling has begun to subside.

In some cases, and especially in children, the loss of a small quantity of blood by leeches produces fainting, seemingly a much smaller quantity than would produce the same effect if taken away in any other manner.

In these cases the bleeding must be stopped, and the same treatment adopted as in fainting from any other cause; viz. the horizontal position should be enjoined, and cold water applied to the face and hands, with hartshorn, &c. to the nose, and warm fluids by the mouth.

10. THE KIND OF LEECHES BEST ADAPTED FOR DIFFERENT PURPOSES.

Small leeches, on the whole, bite better than large ones; and as the skins of children bleed more freely than those of adults, the smallest leeches should be chosen for their use, an increase in the number applied being always a sufficient remedy for the scantiness of the after-bleeding. The largest leeches however should

be applied whenever there is only an opportunity of using a single leech, and a large bleeding is desirable.

(To be concluded next week.)

THE EPIDEMIC.

The Epidemic which has lately visited the United States, under the name of influenza, catarrh, great cold, &c. will probably leave lasting and fatal impressions on some constitutions.

The disease has been obviously of an inflammatory nature, attacking various organs, but principally those of the chest; in a majority of instances the inflammation was local, or rather so slight as not to excite any febrile commotion, or constitutional disturbance—in other cases it was characterized by febrile excitement as in the various species of *cynanche* or Quinsey, particularly the *cynanche tonsillaris* or common sore throat; and in other cases more formidable, such as Pleurisy and Peripneumonia. It is a popular and I believe a correct opinion, that disease when appearing in a local form attacks the weakest part; and it is rational to conclude, when we see in an epidemic season, one person attacked with pleurisy, another with quinsey, a third with rheumatism, &c., that the various membranes and tissues are comparatively speaking, in a state of torpor or debility; or at any rate predisposed to be acted on by the morbid cause, whatever it may be.

But without entering into any physiological or pathological disquisition on the late epidemic, I would wish to call the attention of those of the community who are predisposed to pulmonic or consumptive complaints, to be on their guard; believing as I do, that from the period of this epidemic, thousands will date the commencement of a disease which may terminate their existence. The increasing mortality from these complaints is astonishing and truly deplorable, and humiliating to the boasted improvements in the healing art.

It is mostly the fairer part of creation who are the victims to this disease; and we can generally trace the origin, to some impropriety of conduct, either in dress or unnecessary exposure to the vicissitudes of our variable climate, and what is equally reprehensible, their indifference to, or neglect of, the first symptoms of the disease. Could the mind of the pulmonic be as much impressed with the importance of his disease, as the dyspeptic, I believe there would be many more cures performed. But alas! how often do we hear these deluded mortals, when laboring under the first stages of *phthisis pulmonalis*, when entreated by their friends to procure medical aid, reply that, " 'tis nothing but a bad cold, I shall soon get better," or perhaps what is worse, fly to some celebrated nostrum, which will perhaps only hurry on the fatal event. I believe it is generally admitted, that if any thing can be done in this terrible disease, it must be in the first stages. I should therefore advise those who labor under symptoms of this to be on their guard. The disease mon, and the symptoms are so g

that it would be unnecessary for me to enumerate them; neither shall I advise any method of treatment or prevention, other than as proper exercise, temperance, warm clothing, and change of climate, are concerned (I should place much reliance on the last mentioned means) believing that no general rules which would be of any particular service, would be applicable in every individual case. I would advise an early application for medical assistance; and in selecting your physician, do not be governed by popular prejudice; but select if possible a man of learning, talents, experience, sound judgment, independence and moral integrity, and then strictly and implicitly follow his directions and advice;—by these means, and God's blessing, your health may be restored.

P. S. Since writing the above, an amiable woman next door to me, has paid the debt of nature; who but a few months ago was in the bloom of youth, health and beauty. I saw her a few weeks after being confined with her only child. I saw depicted on her countenance the marks of the fell destroyer! the hollow cough, the laborious respiration and the hectic flush.—I admonished her to procure medical assistance, but her reply was, "I have taken a bad cold." About two weeks from this, a physician was called, but alas! it was too late.—*R. I. American.*

REVELATIONS OF THE DEAD ALIVE,

Vol. 1, 12mo.

This volume shows considerable power of thought on a variety of subjects; on literature, the fine arts, and many abstract questions. The idea, too, of the story is good; but the execution falls somewhat short of the conception. It is founded on an anecdote, related by Dr Cheyne, of an individual, who had the power of dying at will for a certain number of hours. The tale is sufficiently curious to be repeated:—

"He (the patient) could die when he pleased; and yet, by an effort, or somehow, he could come to life again. He insisted so much upon our seeing the trial made, that we were forced to comply. We all three felt his pulse; first, it was distinct, though small and thready, and his heart had its usual beating. He composed himself on his back, and lay in a still posture for some time. While I held his right hand, Dr Baynard laid his hand on his heart, and Mr Skrine held a clear looking-glass to his mouth. I felt his pulse sink gradually, until at last I could not feel any by the most exact and nice touch. Dr Baynard could not feel the least motion in his heart, nor Mr Skrine perceive the least sort of breath on the bright mirror he held to his mouth. Then each of us, by turns, examined his arm, heart, and breath; but could not, by the nicest scrutiny, discover the least symptoms of life in him. We reasoned a long time about this odd appearance as well as we could; and finding he still continued in that condition, we began to conclude that he had indeed carried the experiment too far; and at last we were satisfied that he was actually dead, and were just ready to leave him. By nine o'clock in the morning, in autumn, as we were going away, we observed some motion about the body, and, upon examination, found his pulse and the motion of his heart gradually returning: he began to breathe gently and speak softly. We were surprised, to the last degree, at this unex-

pected change; and after some further conversation with him, and with ourselves, went away fully satisfied as to all the particulars of this fact, but not able to form any rational scheme how to account for it."

On this strange anecdote, the *Revelations of the Dead Alive* are founded; but the author carries this idea much farther than Dr Cheyne. He supposes that, for every day his hero lies in this trance of death, he lives through a year of futurity in vision; but, unlike other visions, things are presented with all vividness and determination of real life. The object, therefore, of the sleeper is, to prolong his trance as much as possible; and the only obstacle to its duration is in the natural cravings of hunger. At last he finds a remedy for this in the writings of Humboldt, from whom he learns that the Ottomans subsist for months together on one good meal of a peculiar kind of clay. Accordingly he visits the savages, purchases the requisite food, and lying down on the heights of a giant-tree, he swallows the clay, and gives himself up to death. His trance lasts for one hundred and ninety-nine days and a quarter; and for every day, he runs through a year of futurity. But in this respect he has not shewn much invention, as he only shews this futurity in its thoughts and opinions of the present: he seldom ventures to shew the actual state of the time to come, and when he does, he evinces a small portion of imagination. On the other hand, his language is powerful, his ideas original, and his work by no means belongs to the common order of every-day publications.

THE TREAD-MILL.

ITS EFFECTS ON THE HEALTH.

Mr Briscoe made a motion to exempt the female prisoners from the punishment of the tread-mill, on the ground that the labor was peculiarly unfit for the female constitution, and was wholly inefficient in conveying any useful acquirement by which they might afterwards avail themselves for their own benefit and that of society. He instanced the case of Lydia Jones, in order to show the inefficacy of this mode of punishment, who had been nine successive times subjected to the tread-mill discipline. He recommended, in its stead, the admirable system of Mrs Fry, which had been productive of so much good in other places.—Mr Briscoe urged a variety of arguments, with much humanity and energy, in favor of "that sex to whom man owed, from his cradle to his grave, an indelible obligation." The motion was supported by Sir T. Turton, and opposed by Messrs Sumner, Whitaker, Courtenay, Chambers, and Barchard.—Mr H. Sumner said, that the diminution of recommitments under Mrs Fry's system was 40 per cent; the tread-wheel discipline had caused a diminution of 200 per cent; so that in the comparison, the tread-wheel had worked far better. Therefore even if they could get so benevolent and effective a lady as Mrs Fry, in their country—too rare an instance of abilities and philanthropy to expect every day—there was no necessity of their resorting to the system of which she was the great authoress; for the physicians had positively demonstrated that the females enjoyed better health than the males while employed in this manner (*Hear!*) and he had heard a lady's physician say, that he had a number of patients on his hands who would not require

medical aid to recruit their health, if their husbands would set up small domestic tread-wheels in their private houses! (*Loud laughter.*) Mr Briscoe's motion was then negatived by a majority of 12 to 4.—*London Examiner.*

LOUIS XVIII AND DR PARRY.

When at Bath in 1816, my physician, the late eminent Dr Caleb Parry, father of Captain Parry, of nautical celebrity, one day told me that he had had for a patient Louis XVIII, then just restored to the throne of his ancestors, and now recently deceased.

The exiled Louis went to Bath an immense size, laboring under a violent paroxysm of the gout, and agonizing at every pore! Dr Parry examined every symptom of the royal sufferer, and asked him "how his appetite was?" His Majesty replied, "Very good—very good: I eat as much as four." With this answer his physician was satisfied.

Dr Parry then prescribed a severe course of diet and physic, which reduced him greatly in bulk; and at the end of six weeks, he was completely recovered. The physician calling to take leave, was told by him, that he wanted to put an advertisement into the Bath papers; which Dr Parry said very politely, he would see properly inserted. "The advertisement," said the king, "shall be short, and may run thus:—'Lost! great part of my belly—(stroking down his waistcoat with a smile.) Whoever finds it, and brings it back to its owner, shall be duly rewarded.' The doctor laughed, enjoyed this little ebullition of pleasantry, and they parted with mutual satisfaction. The French monarch doubtless recovered what he had lost without the aid of an advertisement, and re-indulging his voracious appetite, preserved his *august rotundity* to the end of his days!"

JOHN EVANS.

Islington, (*Eng.*) Oct. 4, 1824.

A FEW REMARKS

ON THE PRESENT STATE OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY IN FRANCE.

The rapid advance of science not only renders Encyclopedias strictly ephemeral, but also leaves in the back-ground those various and occasional accounts which are annually furnished of the state and character of philosophy in different quarters of the globe. It is only by recent histories or actual observations we can acquire a correct knowledge how great improvements are making in the world, and how far science has progressed on its march. Never more clearly than at present have we been able to discern the state of medicine in the transatlantic countries; now that the results of scientific investigation are not eclipsed by the dazzling light of military glory, we can perceive that many fine geniuses, and active persevering scholars have been silently rearing an edifice, which though for a time unnoticed, was destined to outlive the airy castles of victory and pride, and to unfold its splendor as they passed away to be forgotten. It is then with medicine in Europe, as with an equation in algebra—we find it nearer the result we hoped for without discerning the steps by which it has advanced. An inquiry into its present situation in France, and how far general causes have operated in producing it, would be a fine subject for a volume; and we hope the few remarks we shall make on this theme, though necessarily imperfect, may not be wholly destitute of interest or information.

Perhaps it is more true in surgery than in medicine, that the best part of our knowledge is obtained from actual practice,—it is at least certain that more is learned from each operation we perform, than from the strictest attention to any ordinary case of internal disease; we are not surprised, therefore, to find surgery maintaining a high rank in France: for the long wars of Lewis XIV. afforded ample opportunity for improvements, and as these improvements were an object, not of individual interest only, but of national policy, they were commenced with greater inducements to persevere, and prosecuted with more spirit and success. Napoleon is said to have been peculiarly fond of this branch of our profession, and to have conversed frequently on subjects relating to it, with much animation and pleasure. The hope of being honored with the smile of their emperor, must have kindled the ambition and the energies of the people, and have operated as a stimulus to improvement in the subject of his delight. With these peculiar inducements to excel, and all the opportunities for observation and improvement which have been so long and so constantly presented by *l'École intra muros et extra*, we must remember that the science is peculiarly well adapted to the character and taste of Frenchmen. Their promptitude and decision, their ingenuity and facility in the adaptation of means to ends, are all necessary to the acquisition of excellence in the operations of surgery, and render the path to it more easy and pleasant. Besides these intellectual qualifications, the peculiar ease and fluency which characterize all their movements, give them a degree of manual dexterity, which others spend years of labor to acquire, and have at last perhaps to lament that art cannot supply the deficiencies of nature. Thus political, moral, and physical causes, have united to aid the progress of surgery in France, and to render the French at the present day the most expert surgeons in the world.

In medicine the facts are far different. The mildness and freshness of the air, a clear sky, and a verdant soil, united to the agricultural pursuits of the people, render France one of the most healthy and delightful spots upon the globe. The constitutions and the minds of its inhabitants are generally vigorous as their climate, and even those whose pursuits are most sedentary and unhealthy, live to an extreme old age. This is true of its most learned men, its most voluminous authors. Voltaire died at 84, and the oldest men in France have as much vivacity as their grandchildren; "*le corps humain est un fruit qui est vert jusque à vieillesse; le moment de la mort est la maturité.*" We cannot then expect to find much practical knowledge of medicine where the field for the cultivation of it is so limited, and where powerful causes combine to direct the investigations of the learned to another branch of their profession. It is in England where the natural variations of the climate, and the excesses of temperature to which the active and commercial pursuits of the people render them peculiarly exposed, and where intemperance in food and drink has increased to a fearful multitude the miserable victims of disease, that we are to look for improvements in practical medicine; and here it is we find them. The English are active and bold in their modes of treatment; but the French are slow, expectant, and timid, adopting the most simple and therefore the Brunonian principles of practice, relying too much on the *vis medicatrix naturæ*, and often sacrificing the safety of their patients to their love of wild and fanciful theories. This is strikingly illustrated in the case of a French Physician, who came to this

* Maupertius.

country not many years ago to practise his profession. He was called to a patient attacked by fever, but prescribed no remedies the first four days, because he had not determined whether the disease was remittent or intermittent; he thus lost the opportunity of giving his medicines when they would have had the greatest and most salutary effects. They are too theoretical; they practise too much by rule; and, without regard to the application of their knowledge of general principles, they store up a great abundance of them; they study with enthusiasm many sciences which in a country where imagination is less the characteristic of the people, are esteemed the ornaments of a scholar, rather than requisites of a Physician.

There seems then to be an intrinsic difference in the taste and feelings of the English and French, which has not only made them political enemies, but given them a different philosophy, and driven them into opposite roads of investigation. This distinction, however, is less striking than formerly. If their political prejudices are of late years in some degree abated, it is equally true that their scientific character is in some measure assimilated. The English are becoming better surgeons than before, and among the Physicians of France there are some corruscations of excellence, which renders the poignant satire Molière shed so bountifully on the French Doctors of his day, not altogether applicable to those of the present.

The means of surgical education in France are great, and their medical police is strict. Apothecaries are compelled to attend medical lectures, and undergo a critical examination; yet here as every where else, quacks and quack medicines gain repute and popularity. The hospitals in France are numerous, and some of them are supported by a tax on places of public amusement—a scheme well worthy imitation, and peculiarly grateful to our sense of justice and humanity.

CITY INTERMENTS.

There has been much controversy respecting city interments; some contend, that they have a tendency to produce contagious diseases, while others maintain the contrary; the truth of either of these positions must be decided by facts.

One circumstance, then, deserves particular attention; which is, that foul, and stagnated air, is a medium, through which contagious fevers are communicated. This has been proved in this, and in other cities. When the yellow-fever was prevalent here, it was confined to a certain district; and when those sick with the disorder, were removed to a healthy place, it was no longer contagious, except to such as labored under some morbid state of the system.

The decay of animal, or vegetable matter, where the houses are crowded, must impregnate the confined air with a deleterious effluvia; and in this state it becomes a suitable vehicle to spread contagion. Hence city interments ought to be carefully avoided. That they contaminate the atmosphere in hot and moist weather to a greater or less degree, is a positive fact. The writer experienced the truth of this remark, even during last winter, in the Scotch Presbyterian burial ground, opposite Pottersfield. In visiting the place where they were most shamefully, shockingly, and inhumanely digging up graves, the nausea produced by it, was so great as to cause vomiting. This fact fully demonstrates that a sickly and dangerous vapor arises from the decomposition of the hu-

man body, and shows the necessity of using every precaution, to render the air in cities as free and pure as possible; and perhaps, owing to these circumstances, thousands have been and still will be swept off the stage of action.

N. Y. Telescope.

SECRETS OF HEALTH.

A fox-hunter can get drunk every night in the year, and yet live to an old age; but then he is all exercise and no thought. A sedentary scholar shall not be able to get drunk once in the year with impunity; but he is all thought and no exercise. Now, the greatest object is neither to get drunk, nor to be all exercise, nor all thought, but to enjoy all our pleasures with a sprightly reason. The four ordinary secrets of health are, early rising, exercise, personal cleanliness, and the rising from table with a stomach unoppressed. There may be sorrows in spite of these, but they will be less with them, and nobody can be truly comfortable without them.

REPORTS.

CASE OF LARYNGEAL INFLAMMATION,

By JOHN CRAMPTON, M. D.

WHERE TRACHEOTOMY WAS SUCCESSFULLY PERFORMED
By RICHARD CARMICHAEL, Esq. M. R. I. A.

Mary Dunn, aged 30, was admitted into the hospital on the 25th of October, 1823, with a frequent cough, difficult breathing, attended with a hoarse brazen sound, and accelerated pulse; four days before she had been seized with a dull pain from the larynx down along the course of the sternum, with difficulty of breathing, which were aggravated by the use of spirituous liquors, advised as a remedy by her friends. On the evening of her admission (the 25th), twelve oz. of blood were taken from the arm, and an expectorant prescribed, which gave her a tranquil night. On the 26th the symptoms had increased, and the depleting plan pursued; on the 27th they were farther increased; on the 28th her night was very distressing; local bleeding was practised with some slight relief. The rima glottidis appeared to be nearly closed; her extremities were cold, pulse fluttering and feeble, above 130. Tracheotomy was concluded to be the only remedy. It was performed; mucus was discharged through the wound, her color improved, and all the symptoms were immediately mitigated. The pain in the larynx gradually subsided, and by the 22d of November was completely cured.

The aperture in the trachea was made in the shape of a rhomboid, capable of admitting the point of the little finger. The phlegm passed easily through the opening, and relieved her at once. This plan was preferred to a simple division of the rings of the trachea and the introduction of a tube, as such an opening would not suffer the mucus to escape, and the tube would excite great irritation. The only attention afterwards necessary, was the removal of the mucus from the aperture in the trachea by a probe armed with lint, and sometimes by the patient herself with a sponge.

VISCERAL PECULIARITY.

A patient, N. R. died of liver disease and general derangement of the chylopoietic viscera. Dr Gist, Dr Rogers, and Dr Harrison of

Louisville, attended, and the following irregularities were observed on dissection.

The heart was in the right cavity of the thorax, while the situation of the auricles and ventricles was reserved; the aorta was seen arching towards the right side, descending in the ordinary route of the vena cava ascendens, and the cava was transposed to the usual tract of the aorta. The mediastinum occupied its usual partition line, but the three lobed lung was situated in the left, and the two lobed lung in the right side of the pulmonic cavity.

The œsophagus passed down on the right side of the aspera arteria, and the stomach was entirely reversed in its position; the large curvature being on the right and the small curvature and pylorus being on the left side of the abdomen. The duodenum commenced, and was situated mainly on the left side, and the sigmoid flexure of the colon on the right. The liver was entirely reversed in its position, being lodged in the left hypochondriac region, and the spleen occupied the right, being attached to the great arch of the stomach. The rectum terminated on the left side of the sacrum, and the bladder occupied its usual station.

This man was about thirty years of age, and at one period of his life possessed considerable vigour and activity. He was a native of the northern section of the United States, and was very healthy, until he removed to the south.

Med. Recorder.

VARIETIES.

MATERIA MEDICA OF THE UNITED STATES.

Dr William Zollickoffer proposes publishing a second and improved edition of his very useful system of Materia Medica. The utility of a work, in which the indigenous medicinal vegetable productions of the United States, will be exclusively included, and that under a regular systematical form of classification, will, it is presumed, be readily acknowledged by such as feel themselves interested in the improvement of this important branch of the Medical Literature thereof. Within the limits of the vast, extensive territory of our country, an almost innumerable multitude of native plants, have already, through the unvaried and indefatigable exertions of several of the cultivators of Botany, been introduced; many of which, have since been ascertained to possess such remediate properties, as justly entitle them to a place in some one of the classes, into which the materials of Medicine have, with so much propriety, been arranged by the celebrated Murray, Cullen, Moore, and others. The present edition of this MATERIA MEDICA will include all the indigenous productions of this kind, that have not had a place in a former one. A description of the situation of country in which they generally grow most luxuriantly will be given; their virtues, doses, with the various modes of their administration, will also be noticed; as likewise the diseases in which they have been prescribed successfully. As in the former edition, the artificial arrangement of John Murray, M. D. in his Materia Medica, has been adopted, from its convenience and utility, and as it is supposed to be better known than any other; and in order to facilitate an acquirement of the knowledge of the subject, the most approved authors have been carefully consulted; and each article arranged according to its respective botanical affinity.

The terms of this work, printed upon the best quality of paper, and delivered to subscribers, will be *one dollar and fifty cents* a copy. Subscriptions will be received at the office of the Medical Intelligencer.

UNIVERSITY AT GOTTINGEN.—The celebrated University at Gottingen, at its very commencement, was better endowed and had a larger number of students, than Harvard or Yale at this day. It has now, besides private instructors, above 40 professors, who give more

than a hundred courses of lectures each session, or *semestre*. Its botanical garden, museum of natural history, anatomical establishment, observatory, &c. are among the best in the world. Its library, which is arranged in philosophical order, and at all times accessible on the most perfectly liberal terms, consists of 200,000 volumes, and did at one time, by the addition of the libraries of two suppressed universities, which were afterwards restored, amount to 400,000 volumes. It has generally about 1500 students, drawn thither by its splendid endowments, not only from its own vicinity, but from various parts of the world; and the literary ardor of the students is proportioned to their number and advantages—the most of them studying fourteen hours a day, with an enthusiasm unknown at any American college. And yet this University, eminent as it is, is not the growth of centuries, but was founded later by a hundred years than Harvard College.

AURORA BOREALIS.—*New Theory*.—Professor Hanstein considers the Aurora Borealis, as a luminous ring surrounding the magnetic pole, with a radius varying from 20 deg. to 40 deg., and at the height of about 100 miles above the surface of the earth. It is formed, he thinks, by luminous columns shooting upward from the earth's surface, in a direction parallel to the inclination of the needle, and to the direction of the earth's magnetism: these columns render the atmosphere opaque while they pass through it, and only become luminous after they pass beyond it. From the outer or convex side of the ring, beams dart forth in a direction nearly perpendicular to the arch, and ascend toward the zenith; and if they are so long as to pass it towards the south, they collect in the south into a sort of corona or glory, which is situated in that point of the heavens to which the south pole of the needle points. Professor H. finds that the observations made respecting the northern Aurora are well explained by this hypothesis; and he has collected facts to show that a similar ring exists around the southern magnetic pole situated in New Holland, the northern being in North America.—He infers farther, though the stock of observations is rather deficient, that similar luminous rings exist above the two extremities of the secondary magnetic axis in Siberia and in Terra del Fuego.

EFFECT OF COLOR ON HEAT.—It was formerly considered to be curious, that a negro's skin should be black; because as black absorbs heat more rapidly than any other color, it was said, that it was the worst possible tint to preserve the skin from the effects of a tropical sun. But, Sir Everard Home has found by experiment, that whilst the skin is blistered by exposure to the sun's rays when covered only by thin white linen, no such injury occurs when black crape is used. Thus, as the black color acts by converting the radiant heat of the sun into sensible heat, it in reality prevents the scorching quality of the rays; whilst the increase of sensible heat is neutralized by the corresponding increase of perspiration which naturally takes place.

NATURAL HISTORY.—We are indebted to Mr Bradley for a curious observation. He discovered that two sparrows carried into their nest forty caterpillars per hour. The birds appeared to him to reside in their nest only twelve hours in the day. This would produce a daily consumption of four hundred and eighty caterpillars, which in one week amounts to 3360, by a single pair of sparrows.

Doctor Godman, of Philadelphia, is preparing a work on the natural history of this country, to be illustrated with engravings from drawings from living animals.

COMMON SALT TO CORRECT THE FÆTOR OF CANCEROUS SORES.—M. Liaubon relates the case of a female with a cancerous ulcer in the right breast, who suffered extremely from the fætor of the discharge, which was so intolerable that the persons who assisted in dressing the wound, could scarcely remain in the room. M. Liaubon ordered a lotion of salt, dissolved in water, to wash the parts; the disease was not arrested by the means, but the fætor was entirely destroyed.

WARNING.—Children are in the habit of chewing *India Rubber*. It perhaps is not generally known that quicksilver is brought in this article, and it may be considered rank poison.

SICKNESS.

What loveless form at thou,
With cold and ashy cheek?
Crowned heads before thee bow—
What is thy name?—Oh, speak!

Ah, thy destroying breath,
Even now consumes my frame,
Too well, handmaid of death,
I know thy fearful name!

The yellow beams of day
At thy approach grow pale;
The buds of hope decay,
And mildews blight the vale.

Cold as the icy shroud
When brumal terrors meet,
Thou com'st, like a stormy cloud,
And darkness clothes thy feet,

Pale handmaids form thy train,
With wan and withered arms,
Want, penury, and pain,
And frenzy's spectral forms.

Ah why, unwelcome guest,
Detested, feared by all,
Why on the couch of rest
Spread'st thou thy fearful pall?

Go, go, destroyer, go!
Some waste of nature seek,
Till health, with blushing glow,
Revives the faded cheek.

Cin. Lit. Gaz.

PRESERVATION OF SEEDS.—The late Dr Roxburgh, when in India, appears to have been in the habit of putting up the various seeds, which, among other things, he wished to send home to England, in an envelope of gum arabic; they were coated with a thick mucilage of gum, which hardened around them; and he was informed by Sir John Pringle, the President of the Royal Society, that the seeds had been received in a better state of preservation, particularly the mimosas, than he had ever seen the same kinds arrive from countries equally distant.

Ough is pronounced o, oo, ou, off, au, up—*though* through, plough, cough, enough, thought, hiccough. A friend called upon me, when, in consequence of a cold I had caught, I was ill in bed, and I told him I had a *cou*; upon which he asked me for some milk. Thinking I must have pronounced the word wrong, I told him that I had a *cuff*; he replied, he took it for granted I had two, for that coats in this country were not made without them. Perceiving still that he did not understand me, I told him I had a *cup*. He asked me whether it was of silver or only of earthen ware? Being quite angry with him, I had again to make myself understood, and told him I had a violent *cau*, and fell a coughing so that I could speak no longer.

Among modern vicissitudes, may be reckoned that of a once celebrated dentist, who now follows the much humbler calling of a bailiff's runner; on hearing which, a wit observed, that formerly he only showed his teeth, but now he bites.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

Ending April 1st; from the Health-Office Returns.

March 24.—Frederick G. Snelling, 2 mo.; Mary Maxwell, 74. 26th.—Hannah Breck, 81; — Lily; — Harvey; Elizabeth Campbell, 72. 27th.—Henry B. Robinson, 3. 28th.—John B. Bowen, 51; John Long; Daniel Hobbs, 33. 31st.—Sarah Jones, 25; William Brown, 10 mo.; Sophia Lynch, 34; — Story; Lydia Ridgeway, 35. April 1.—Richard Osgood; John F. Cook, 10 mo.

Lung Fever, 2—Paralytic, 1—Old Age, 2—Stillborn, 3—Consumption, 2—Brain Fever, 1—Childbed, 1—City Poor, 2.

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OBSERVATIONS.

On the Natural History and Medical use of the Leech; with some account of the Mode of managing Leeches, as well as of applying them, and Stopping the Bleeding from their Bites.

(Concluded from page 189.)

11. DISEASES OF LEECHES.

Leeches are very liable to become diseased and die. In summer it often happens that great numbers perish in a short time, and it is not accurately known from what cause this happens: some say, from the water at that season speedily becoming putrid; but others affirm, from direct experiment, that the water in which leeches live, is, as it were preserved from putrefaction, for they have found, that portions of it have continued sweet for months, although leeches have constantly resided in it. In one case the experiment was continued for two years; at which period the single leech employed died, but the water had not acquired an unpleasant smell. The sides of the vessel become coated by a greenish matter, but the water continued to be "pure, sparkling, and free from smell."

A healthy leech should feel hard when handled, from its power of contracting itself being perfect and energetic. If it be soft in the hand, the other signs of disease should be sought for. These signs will generally be found to indicate one or other of the following diseases.

1. "An ulcer seated on various parts of the body, but more generally affecting the side. The part on which it is situated is usually contracted. When this disease first manifests itself, it presents only a small speck, which, in the course of a few days, spreads with such rapidity and malignity as to destroy life. This ulcer is frequently tinged with blood, and occasionally works a passage internally. Sometimes it is of little or no depth, and of no extent, appearing to be a simple abrasion of the skin. Trifling, however, as this may seem, it proves, as many must have witnessed, abundantly destructive.

2. Another disease, of equal malignity, is, when one portion of the body is narrowed in its diameter, and rigid, whilst another portion is studded with tumors, which, on incision, present nothing except black, putrid, coagulated blood.

3. A disease that occasionally falls under our notice, and in its pernicious tendency equals those already described, is, when the whole body puts on a flaccid appearance, with the exception of the lips, which are hard, swollen, of a purple cast, and frequently bloody." (Dr Johnson, page 133.)

It seems that leeches are often caught with these diseases on them, especially the ulcer, on the *hirudo vulgaris*, (a useless species, often palmed on inexperienced buyers for the medicinal leech,) in the summer. A great mortality, says Dr J. may always be expected when the water "assumes a bloody tinge," though the leeches are apparently in good health. The remedy for these diseases is a desideratum.

12. ON THE BEST MODE OF KEEPING LEECHES.

A large brown stone jar, with the inside somewhat rough, is the best vessel for this purpose, much better than a glass vessel. It should be two thirds filled with soft water, and be covered by a coarse cloth.

Dr Johnson says, "When leeches are kept in any considerable quantity, I would recommend them to be placed in a large vessel, provided with a false bottom, so perforated, as to allow them a ready passage. This false bottom should be raised from three to six inches above the real bottom, or to such an extent as will admit of a turf of nearly equal dimensions being placed between them. It should fit closely to the sides, so that the earth may not be disturbed by the introduction of fresh water. It is necessary that the vessel be also furnished with a stop-cock, that the water may be drawn off as often as it may be considered expedient."

In any case it is advantageous to put a portion of moss, or as the leech dealers often do, of the marsh horsetail or *equisetum palustre* into the jar, as it is of great use in cleansing the cuticular covering which they periodically throw off.

The water should be changed at least as often as it becomes foul or bloody; and, as it is erring on the safe side to let the leeches have a constant supply of fresh soft water, the water should be changed, and the inside of the jar cleared of the slime which adheres to it every two or three days, or daily in summer.

It only remains to observe, that as it is not always easy to procure a supply of leeches in the country, it would often be of service, and especially to the individual employed, to teach some female how to manage and apply leeches. By so doing, the application would always be effectual, and as the lives of the leeches would generally be preserved, the cost of the application would be less than if leeches were bought and wasted as is usually the case.

Women thus qualified, are even now found in large towns, but the number of them might be advantageously increased; for it is a great convenience to know, that leeches can thus always be obtained and properly applied, and it forms an honest and useful mode of gaining a livelihood for those who engage in it.

CUTANEOUS DISEASES.

I have long been of opinion, that the general treatment of cutaneous diseases in this country is founded on irrational principles—an opinion not so much deduced from physiological speculations, as from observation of the general mode of treating this class of diseases practised by the continental physicians. But I have been deterred from communicating my ideas on the subject to any of the medical publications of the day, that as it might possibly be construed into an indirect censure on the usual practice of the regular practitioners, it would not probably have been inserted.

As your pages however appear to be open to all parties, if you think the following remarks

sufficiently important for your miscellany, they are much at your service.

The climate of Great Britain is proverbially said to be more subject to vicissitudes than that of any other country in Europe, which is doubtless owing to our insular situation. But it is not only the rapid change of temperature (amounting frequently to 30 or 40 degrees between the day and night, and often 15 or 20 degrees between two successive days), which is alone injurious to health; the hygrometric changes, which so rapidly succeed each other, more especially during the autumnal months, are perhaps no less instrumental in producing derangement in the animal functions, more particularly by the means of the biliary secretions. And as the effect of either a humid or a dry atmosphere, must be exerted principally, if not wholly through the medium of the skin, we shall find, on a slight examination, sufficient data to account for the origin and prevalence of most of the disorders called cutaneous; and probably of many others, more deeply seated in the system, classed under the heads of glandular and chronic.

It has been justly observed, that the discharge of feculent matter by the emunctories of the skin, is of more importance in the preservation of health than any, or all the other excretions of the body united. And, it may be added, whenever the action of the skin ceases or becomes obstructed—if the other excretory functions be not stimulated in an equal proportion,—the system invariably feels its effects within twenty-four hours.

But will stimuli, applied internally in all cases (or even in the majority of cases), operate as a compensation for the external obstruction of the skin? Both observation and analogy would make us decide in the negative; yet the general practice of this country is to resort to internal application, by means of the stomach and its auxiliaries, in order to get rid of external or local obstruction. It would perhaps savour too much of empiricism to say, that all cutaneous diseases arose from injudicious treatment of obstructed perspiration. But when it is considered that this copious excretion is not merely aqueous vapor, but the feculent residuum of the vessels of the skin also in a state of solution; it is easy to conceive that if such morbid matter be locked up in the pores through any external impediment, instead of being expelled, that it must have a rapid tendency to putrefaction, or the formation of pus, which will be in proportion to the animal heat of the patient, and to the vitiated state of the fluids generally.

The late researches of a few accurate observers* respecting the actual nature of cutaneous diseases, having shewn the existence of animalculæ in *psora*, and many other varieties of cuticular disease, seems rather to favor than militate against the supposition, that most of these disorders owe their origin to the feculent matter, called perspiration, being shut up in the interstices of the skin, and subsequently purifying and giving existence to myriads of animalculæ.

* Plumbe, and others, on diseases of the skin.

The most simple as well as the most effectual means of relieving the skin appears to be by the use of the warm bath, either in the form of fresh or saline water, or, which is far preferable, in the vaporific or gaseous form. Notwithstanding all the great cities of the continent are provided with baths (both public and private, cold and warm), which are generally resorted to by the inhabitants, not only as an article of luxury and cleanliness, but as a restorative after fatigue or exposure to inclement weather; yet the English have in general a disinclination to the enjoyment of this genuine though temperate luxury.

It seems extraordinary that so valuable a domestic medicine as a warm bath should not form an appendage to every opulent mansion in the kingdom. There appears to be a very mistaken notion among our countrymen, that the occasional use of a warm bath renders the body more liable to cold. This, however, is so far from being the case, that the inhabitants of Petersburg, Moscow, &c. are accustomed to the frequent use of the warm bath, and immediately after to throw themselves into cold water, even in the winter season; both for the purpose of recreation and to render themselves hardier, and *less liable to colds*.

Custom is every thing. And as the human skin may almost be compared to a sponge with its pores filled with water, when the warm bath has produced a copious discharge of the perspirable matter, and thus carried off the feculent, or carbonaceous and alkaline matter from the vessels of the skin, the sudden immersion in cold water, or in a shower bath, instantly closes the minute pores of the epidermis, thus preventing the liability to "take cold," and at the same time bracing the muscles of the whole body.

With regard to the use of the warm bath in general, some discretion is undoubtedly necessary. It is neither desirable to have the temperature too high (especially on first entering) nor to remain too long in the bath. Any medical adviser will, however, be capable of deciding on these points, according to the general habits or health of the patient.

But for persons of a delicate frame, the fumi-gating vapor-bath possesses very decided advantages over a water-bath. The weight or pressure of the water is very oppressive, and almost painful to those laboring under asthmatic or liver complaints; while vapor acts insensibly on the skin, or rather it affords an agreeable sensation almost immediately, by releasing the constriction of the pores, and allowing them to discharge their morbid contents.

But it has been proved that medicated vapor baths have much greater influence than mere water-vapor, by acting *chemically* on the patient, and thus, while it dissolves and carries off the feculent matter, it brings on a healthy action of the skin, by promoting a freer circulation of the blood through its minute vessels.

In cases where the skin is turgid and insensible, the chlorine gas (oxymuriatic) has been found most efficacious, and chlorine vapor has been used with the most decided success by Mr Wallace in the Dublin hospitals.

But where the patient is in a considerable state of irritability, or a general debility from chronic disease prevails, sulphurous vapor baths are certainly the most advantageous. I speak from experience, having lately tried those of Mr

Green, in Bury Street. But the action of sulphur in the state of vapor has a more powerful effect on the system generally, than would be inferred *a priori*. Numerous cases of obstinate chronic diseases, as rheumatism, gout, and visceral obstructions of long standing, are stated by Mr Green to have yielded to a judicious use of the sulphurous, or fumigating bath.

It was my intention to have gone into a brief inquiry concerning the reputed efficacy of salt-water bathing, as a remedy for scrofulous disease; but I am apprehensive I have already trespassed too much on your valuable columns.

Mary-le-bone, 10th Oct. 1824. T. W. W

MEASLES.

By D. UWINS, M. D. London, Nov. 1824.

Let the individual who may be sceptical respecting the available nature of medical interference with the malignity of disease, accompany the writer of these papers in one of his Dispensary rounds. It is truly distressing to witness the number of victims to "the medical wounds" of disorder, that the streets and lanes of London daily present to the exploring eye. From neglect or mismanagement in its earliest stages, of one malady especially, namely, the measles, many infants among the poor are at this moment struggling against the suffocation of bronchial mucus, or lying prostrate under the pressure of pulmonary effusion.

Than in eruptive affections, the measles more especially, there are none in which it is of more moment to guard against irreparable mischief likely to be done to the lungs, by the rush of the distemper's virulence upon these vulnerable organs; and even if death be not the consequence, immediately, of pulmonary inflammation from measles, a worse alternative often awaits the sufferers and their relatives. Consumption too often in after life claims as his own the subject of mismanaged measles, and substantiates his claim in despite of medical endeavors, now, alas! too feeble for the frightful conflict. The writer believes, that he may before have quoted the quaint but impressive language of a modern author on this topic of melancholy interest. "If your convalescent from small-pox, hooping-cough, scarlet fever, or *measles*, bark but once, fear lest there be a murderer within; and, though dislodged, expect him again, he now knows the way."

For the Medical Intelligencer.

INFLUENZA.

From some of your last numbers, I perceive that the epidemic influenza is very prevalent with you. It is equally prevalent here, but, probably from the difference of climate and situation, appears to vary considerably from the description given of yours.

In most of the cases here, the throat is not much affected. The patient is troubled with an excessive irritating cough, especially at night with pains in the head and different parts of the body, and the paroxysms of coughing very frequently terminate in vomiting. In many of the worst cases, however, the disorder will often continue some days without any cough at all.—The tongue is covered with a yellowish mucus, the bowels are sometimes constipated, but frequently lax, and the bilious system is much affected. The pulse is usually slow and soft, es-

pecially at the commencement of the disease. I have seen but very few cases that required bleeding from their pneumonic symptoms; and but one case of peripneumonia notha, which is at present under my care.

The best and most effectual remedy in these cases, was an emetic. This usually evacuated a large quantity of bile from the stomach, and then invariably acted as a cathartic. Even the slightest emetics of a few grains of ipecacuanha would often procure a number of bilious stools. The emetic also removed the local pains and the feverish state of the skin that usually attended the disorder.

The cough, when there was none at the commencement of the disorder, would usually make its appearance soon after the operation of the emetic. On revisiting a patient twenty-four or thirty-six hours after the exhibition of an emetic, he would say that he was much better, but had taken a violent cough. The cough was often very distressing, and appeared to originate from an irritating cause seated very low in the lungs. It was sometimes attended with a copious expectoration, and at others was dry and spasmodic. In the first species of cough, the nitric lac ammoniac, combined with paregoric, had a very good effect; in the second species, paregoric, tinct. of assafoetida, combined with oil of amber, &c. were found useful. In one case a person, without advice, took several doses of British oil, with an excellent effect.

Sometimes there was an exacerbation of fever with headach, in the afternoon, for several days. In this case, the use of super tart. potassæ as a drink, or a powder composed of two grs. of calomel, eight of nit. potash, and $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. of tart. antim. would soon remove all symptoms of fever.

The above described form of disease, was the one most frequent here, although we had some cases agreeing precisely with those described as prevailing most in the vicinity of Boston.

The peculiar constitution of the atmosphere in this valley appears to have given a particular form to the disease. For some years past affections of the liver, both acute and chronic, have been very frequent here. Bilious remitting and intermitting fevers prevailed considerably last autumn, and were very generally attended with a distressing cough.

E. BISHOP.

Cavetown, (Md.) March 25, 1825.

PRESBYOPIA.

Many species of presbyopia are congenital, and ought not, therefore, to be denominated diseases. We have often been led to believe there is a radical error in applying the term *disease* to any peculiarity in the configuration of parts, or organs, in the human body, differing from usual proportions. Unless there is a defect in the ordinary functions, affecting the general health, surely there is nothing approximating disease; and hence we should rather speak of malformation, because it conveys a truer idea than *disease*, where an organ has anatomical peculiarities, which defeat the object of nature, although wholly unaccompanied with morbid affections. A gentleman is now sitting before us, who is a presbyope, from birth,—yet the organs of vision are perfectly free from disease.

The general character of presbyopia is defective vision—so that objects, either at a distance or directly before the eyes, are confused, or obscured by an apparent

mist, requiring an effort of the will to discover the object with any precision: hence the frequent inflammation of the surrounding tunics of old people's eyes, when they attempt reading without spectacles. Miopia, of which we have before treated, principally depends on a too great convexity of the cornea; whereas, in presbyopia, the transparent cornea is too flat, ordinarily, carrying the focal point to different distances beyond the retina. When this latter peculiarity has existed from birth, the only manner of producing a proper convexity must depend on the frequent exercise given the eyes, in contemplating an object very near the face, which must necessarily excite the recti muscles to compress the globes, and thus the transparent fluids within, will distend the cornea, and an elongation of the optic axes are produced. By practising in early life, this seems the most probable result: but, unfortunately, the true nature and condition of the eye is rarely understood, till habit has forever destroyed the chance of altering either their parallelism, or converging focus.

We are fully persuaded that presbyopia, in middle life, oftener depends on a defective secretion of the aqueous humor, than is generally suspected by oculists. Even when the fluid is existing in a proper quantity, there may be a clouded, misty appearance, like looking through crape, arising from a turbid state of the humor, and which may have been the result of accident years before, impairing the refractive power.—Again—the lamina of the cornea are porous, and in health there is constantly oozing between the external plate of the cornea and the tunica conjunctiva, a glairy and beautifully transparent kind of varnish, giving that peculiar brilliancy to the eye, which is the admiration of all, and which the ablest painter in the world can never hope to imitate; and this sometimes becomes glutinous, destroying both distinct vision and the former expression of the face. Where this appearance takes place, it is a *disease*, and totally unlike the malformation of which we are speaking. When people of a middle age suddenly find themselves unable to read with ease, on account of a dimness which they cannot readily describe—and when it is difficult to obtain lenses which restore the strength of the image on the retina, it amounts almost to a certainty that the secretion is impaired in the cornea. Instead, therefore, of attempting to recover their sight by the use of spectacles, they should at once resort to blisters behind the ears, issues on the temples, &c. The continued use of glasses only confirms the disease by habit, and fixes the complaint, in a little time, beyond the influence of medicinal remedies.

We have sometimes thought that it would be worth the trial to puncture the sclerotica, in the aged, and suffer the aqueous humor to flow off completely—which would be a perfectly safe operation, hoping the irritation would excite the villous surface of the iris and ciliary process to greater activity—having the effect of not only distending the anterior chamber of the eye with a purer liquor, but in a greater quantity, too, which would at once overcome the flatness of the cornea, and give it a pristine convexity, if it did not produce a complete restoration to sight.

Now there may be presbyopia from too great a flatness of the chrySTALLINE lens, while the cornea has a sufficient degree of convexity. If such is the case, spectacles are the only resource; but it requires the nicest observation of a critical anatomist to determine the point; and no experiments with optical instruments are warrantable, therefore, till a proper knowledge of the internal condition of the eye has been ascertained.

Ordinarily, the anterior surface of the chrySTALLINE lens is the segment of a circle about nine lines in diameter, and the posterior, necessarily more convex, being only about five. In a man of eighty-five, who enjoyed a tolerable eye sight, the lens was considerably flattened, posteriorly, making it the segment of a circle, seven lines in diameter—at once showing the true reason why the focus was formed beyond the sensible retina. This case is precisely like many which we frequently find among young people—inability to distinguish objects, on account of the flatness of the lens, independently of any defect of the cornea. The skill of the surgeon, then, should be exerted in the first place, to discriminate the seat of the blemish, and if the cornea is the seat of the difficulty, there is reason to hope it may be overcome; but, on the other hand, if the chrySTALLINE lens is originally defective, no plan of operation has yet been suggested for giving it a more refractive power.

There is another kind of presbyopia, peculiar to people who have been in the habit of viewing distant objects, without accustoming themselves to examine those at the common focal distance, as holding a book, &c. It is said that Indian hunters are the subjects of this, from continually watching their game at a distance.—An Indian, who many years before, could read intelligibly, found himself unable to discern the letters with which he had formerly been familiar. This phenomenon has not been well explained: why we see an object with the same distinctness at the distance of a mile, that we do one within five inches of the eye, still puzzles us unaccountably.

The real definition of the term *presbyopia*, as received among medical men, should only mean that general state of the eyes, consequent upon age, when the humors have not only become changed in quantity and quality, but the optic nerve, tunics, the pigments of the tapetum, uvea and ciliary process, have undergone corresponding changes—showing the approach of those infirmities which characterize old age, disqualifying the individual for the active pursuits of life, and reminding him that his days have been numbered from his birth.

"BORN TO BE A BONE-SETTER."

While travelling thro' the western part of Massachusetts, the last week, we were particularly entertained by a stage coach companion, with a marvellous account of the wonderful operations of a man in his vicinity, who was born a natural bone-setter. When regularly educated surgeons have been totally unable to relieve ankylosed knees, this modern Æsculapius has frequently tucked half a tea-cup-full of very little bones into their proper sockets, and sent his admiring patients to their own homes upon the run. This relation associated other masterly manœuvres which are going on at the east, *the place of light*, and although we have a most contemptible opinion of modern prophets, Hohenlohe miracles, and natural bone-setters, we should only be called crabbed fellows to question the facts which report has been so steadily engaged in trumpeting abroad.

The title of the following lucubratory observations, is merely a quotation from the voice of that part of our enlightened population, who not only believe that the moon is made of green cheese, and that Mr Gulliver actually travelled into Brobdignag, but that there are men abiding in our sapient cities, from feelings of pure benevolence towards a limping, stiff-jointed community, who can luxate every bone in a man's body, by winking an eye, and reduce them again, in a twinkling, according to the genuine rules of hocus pocus.

To come to the point, however, it is perfectly idle to waste the prime of one's life in studying operative surgery. Unless we were born with a natural tact for the business, and exhibited in our earliest years a disposition to practise, by intuition, on the half-fledged chickens which peeped about the coop, or splintered up a puppy's leg, there is no hope of succeeding in this difficult profession. Education develops nothing; if we were brought into existence without brains, so we must remain, totally incapable in ourselves of changing the condition of our unfortunate cerebral machinery. One man was undoubtedly designed for a merchant, another for manufacturing "Lee's Pills," and another for tending a toll gate; but we gladly enter upon the consideration of those inherent qualities which indubitably prove the individual a *natural bone-setter*—a favorite of fortune, and as a matter of course, a still greater pet of all well bred and sensible people. In the first place, it becomes absolutely necessary for the future success of a natural bone-setter, that his birth should have been attended with certain preternatural circumstances, of a surprising character; such as weighing seven pounds more than his mother—or else, he must have been so exceedingly little that his nurse held him up in a mustard-pot to be christened. When three weeks and four days old, he must have *smiled* when the maid accidentally trod upon the cat's paw, or have thrown himself into a paroxysm of rage, at the tender age of two calendar months, on seeing the family physician attempt a reduction of his aunt's middle finger. Instead of creeping his way about the nursery floor, he should be found putting his own ankles out of joint, in trying to stand against an easy chair, and afterwards setting them himself, with non pareil adroitness, without a groan, showing that true genius is unaccompanied with tears, and that ideal philosophy, when properly directed, is portentous stuff. A school should be both hated and dreaded above all things: none but blockheads ever require learning to make them passable members of society. A disposition to quarrel, and try the flexibility of a play-mate's skull, by way of amusement, is one of the most convincing evidences that the object of seventh-son solicitude is on the high road to distinction, and if no untoward misfortunes betide, we may now begin to discover those mightier characteristics which entitle him to the entire confidence of first rate families. To intemperance, vulgarity, profanity, and a total disregard towards every thing decent, add about one dozen other vices, no less disgusting, and this will constitute a natural bone-setter, and such a one, too, as would have the encouragement of the first people of a polite metropolis, celebrated for its devotedness to literature and to science.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF RHODE-ISLAND.

The following is only a part of a long communication from an anonymous correspondent in Providence, R. I. on the medical school of Brown University. We do not feel at liberty to publish the whole, in its present form, but if the writer will have the goodness to send his name, we shall have no hesitation in giving publicity to his remarks. It must be that something is "rotten in Denmark," or such stories would not be sent abroad by one who professes to reside under the same roof where these evils are said to exist. As it is our object to give the medical public all the intelligence in our power relating to the profession, all articles, which have for their object the public good, will be cheerfully inserted. The writer, after some preliminaries, goes on to say—

I said the plan was, at present, better, but yet it is susceptible of much improvement. I can by an analysis, give you some idea of this school, which, I add, and without ostentation, might, and ought to stand pre-eminent, from the character and talent concentrated in many of its professors, though its number of students will ever be limited and comparatively small, from its location in the immediate vicinity of the flourishing schools of Boston and New-York. The lectures upon "Theory and Practice of Physic and Obstetrics" are well conducted, and by a gentleman, than whom no one in our medical schools, is better qualified, or more prominent as a medical observer, practitioner, or belles lettres scholar.—The lecturer on Chemistry is also a gentleman of superior talents as a scholar and lecturer; always possessing the happy faculty of riveting the attention of his class; and cannot be excelled by originality of genius or depth of research. The lecturer upon Natural History, &c. although, in perfect readiness, will not, as yet, enter upon the duties of his appointment, until the school shall have become re-organized: when his lectures will be attended with much pleasure and interest. His cabinet is in a state of much forwardness.—The course upon Materia Medica and Botany, is delivered by a veteran in science, but unfortunately commences in the spring term of our college, when the medical students have returned to their homes. Of the course upon Anatomy, Surgery, and Physiology, I add nothing: your acquaintance with the lecturer is probably more extensive than mine, you can therefore the better appreciate their merit, character and force.

Providence, April 6, 1825. THE COMPILER.

HEALTH OF NORTH CAROLINA.

To an invalid from the north, suffering under inclement skies, the mild winter of North Carolina is peculiarly grateful and beneficial. The inhabitants of the country suffer severely during the heats of summer. The flat country, and stagnant waters, produce fevers and agues, which often continue throughout the whole year, subverting all health and enjoyment. In autumn, the whole population of the sea-board, with few exceptions, present a sickly, consumptive aspect, accompanied with great debility. To children, the summer is peculiarly fatal: in considerable villages, sufficient numbers do not always survive to form a common school. It is, however, less sickly back from the rivers and morasses.

After travelling westward about 150 miles from the sea, the climate becomes salubrious, and the population healthy, vigorous, and efficient. It is in a great degree owing to the unhealthy state of the sea-board, that the increase of the black population is much greater than that of the whites. The blacks suffer less from the climate.

VARIETIES.

NATIVE OIL.—Finer and sweeter oil no country can supply than what we can with little trouble and expense prepare for ourselves. The tall annual sunflower will prove this: its seeds, bruised and pressed, will yield an oil as sweet and as fine as that we can import from Florence. From a bushel of this seed, a gallon of oil may be drawn, and with this advantage, that it can be obtained at any time, quite soft, bland and fresh. The

seed also, and the mass that remains after the expression of the oil, are of excellent use to feed hogs and poultry. But besides these uses, the growing plant is of eminent service; it having been proved that nearly twenty times as much pure dephlogisticated air is exhaled from one plant in twenty-four hours in light and clear weather, as a man respires in a vitiated and impure state in that space of time. Hence the inhabitants of close, ill-aired, and unwholesome places, should be diligent in its cultivation.

OTTO OF ROSES.—The following is the recipe for making the celebrated Otto, or Otter of Roses, from a work recently published, entitled the *Memories of the Rose*. Take a very large glazed earthen or stone jar, or a large clean wooden cask; fill it with the leaves of the flowers of roses, very well picked, and freed from all seeds and stalks: pour on them as much pure spring water as will cover them, and set the vessel in the sun, in the morning at sunrise, and let it stand till the evening; then take it into the house for the night. Expose it in this manner for six or seven successive days, and at the end of the third or fourth day a number of particles, of a fine yellow, oily matter, will float on the surface, which in two or three days more will gather into a scum, which is the otto of roses. This is to be taken up by some cotton, tied to the end of a piece of stick, and squeezed with the finger and thumb into a small phial, which must be immediately and closely stopped; and this is repeated for some successive evenings, or while any of this fine essential oil rises to the surface of the water. It is said that 1 cwt. of roses will yield but 3 ss. of this precious aroma.

PRUSSIC ACID.—It has been long known that the Prussic acid constituted one of the most powerful poisons with which we are acquainted, owing to its violent attraction for oxygen. A Physician of Jena, M. J. T. Becker, has recently proved by an elaborate series of experiments, that its deleterious agency on vegetable life is no less certain. Grains and seeds of various kinds, on being steeped a short time in a solution of this acid, have their germinating properties destroyed. And a portion of this liquid being applied to the roots of a living plant, speedily destroys vegetation. These facts might lead to a very interesting problem connected with agricultural chemistry.

CASTORINA.—Castorina, or the peculiar Principle of Castor has, by the analysis of M. Bizio, been obtained, in the form of small prismatic acicular crystals, some lines in length, diaphanous and white. In ether these crystals dissolve very readily: when heated, they appear to boil and emit vapors, which burn brilliantly in the open air: distilled in close vessels, the usual products of vegetable substances are obtained from these crystals, without any trace of their animal origin.

NEW MEDICAL PUBLICATIONS IN LONDON.—The Lectures of Sir Astley Cooper, Bart. F. R. S. on the Principles and Practice of Surgery; with additional notes and cases by Frederick Tyrell, Esq. 1 vol. 8vo. —Official Report on the Fever which appeared on board H. M. S. ship Bann, on the coast of Africa, and amongst the detachment of Royal Marines, forming the Garrison of the Island of Ascension, in the year 1823. By Wm. Bennett, M. D. —The London Dispensatory. By Anthony Todd Thompson, F. L. S. In one large vol. 8vo. (revised and altered according to the last Edition of the London and Edinburgh Pharmacopæias, the 4th Edition. —A Practical Treatise on Hemorrhoids, or Piles, Strictures, and other important Diseases of the Rectum and Anus. By G. Calvert, 2vo.

CURE FOR DEAFNESS.—When the late Rev. Mr A was considerably advanced in life, being in Edinburgh,

at the General Assembly, he took the opportunity of consulting the late Dr Cullen for an occasional deafness which troubled him. The Doctor having made the necessary inquiries, and duly considered the case, wrote a prescription, which he gave Mr A. who, in return, tendered a fee: "I thank you, Sir," said Dr C. "but I have long made it a rule never to accept a fee for advice to a country clergyman—he cannot afford it, Sir."—"Perhaps there are many who cannot," said Mr A.—"but I can; for my living is good, and I have no family."—"What! are you a bachelor?" cried Dr C. "I am," replied Mr A. "Now, why did you not tell me so at first? It would have saved me much trouble," said the facetious Doctor. "Destroy the prescription I have given you. Go home and get married as fast as possible; and I hazard my reputation that, in a month after, you shall hear on the deafest side of your head!"

A CHEAP BAROMETER.—Take a small glass hollow ball, with a very small aperture, through which you are to introduce just as much water as will allow it to swim, so that on the slightest addition, the ball will sink. This ball, so prepared, must be placed in a common vial three parts full of water, corked air tight.—The ball will either rise or fall by the heat and coldness of the atmosphere.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE NAVY.—Dr Bailey Washington is appointed Surgeon, and Dr Benjamin F. Bache, Charles B. Jansen, John R. Chandler, and Augustus P. Beers, Surgeon's mates, in the United States Ship North Carolina, ordered on a foreign station, where she will probably be absent three years.

ANATOMICAL DISCOVERY.—Sir Everard Home read the Cronian lecture before the Royal Society in London, in February last, in which he announced his discovery of nerves in the fetal and maternal placenta.—He also communicated an interesting paper on the changes the ovum of the frog undergoes during the formation of the tadpole. Sir Humphrey Davy was re-elected President of the Society, and Thomas Young, M. D. foreign Secretary.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.—We have been politely favored with a catalogue of the students in the medical school of Maine, and find their number is 57.

VISION.—Dr Brewster recently read an ingenious paper before the Royal Society of Edinburgh, on the vision of impressions on the retina.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,
Ending April 9th; from the Health-Office Returns.
April 2.—Lydia Ridgway, 35; Mary Burns, 7 mo.; Edmund Callahan, 80. 3d.—David Watson, 81. 4th.—Charles French, 23; ———— Woolindale; Elizabeth Scott, 49. 5th.—Violet Smith; Sarah Sweetser Low, 28; Fanny R. Richardson, 24. 6th.—James Harris, jr. 2; ———— Cutter; Charles R. Holmes, 1 1-2. 8th.—Susan C. Searle, 26. 9th.—John McLane (a child).

Lung Fever, 2—Old Age, 2—Measles, 1—Stillborn, 2—Dropsy, 1—Consumption, 1—Worms, 1—Childbed, 1—Puerperal Fever, 1. City Poor, 2.

DIED.—In Pittsford, Vt. Dr AARON BAKER, aged 37.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER :

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OBSERVATIONS.

ADVICE TO YOUNG MEN, BY A GRANDMOTHER.

A physician, father of even a numerous offspring, cannot have such experience of the momentary changes to which infants are liable, as an observant mother or nurse; and as, with a moderate degree of science, would be his surest guide.

A long series of years, spent in the charge of children, may give a nurse an experience, which, with discretion and modesty, would be of infinite value; but this experience is usually attended with her fancy that she is capable of prescribing medicines with whose nature and force she is unacquainted. The courage of ignorance is great, its mistakes often fatal. Where the learned and judicious physician thinks it prudent to delay his exertions, an inferior one or a nurse often gives medicine upon medicine; and, disturbing nature's salutary efforts, augments disease. On the other hand, a physician is consulted to little purpose, when the vital power has been exhausted by continued disease or improper management.

Mankind's ignorance respecting medicine gives power to pretenders: few people know how to distinguish them from the man whose education has been suitable to his profession, and who, dedicating himself to research, can relieve disease; who is not a bigot in old ideas, nor an enthusiast in new, and for many reasons, not the fashionable doctor of the day.

Having suckled many children, I had means of obtaining from the first source, knowledge which medical men can get from women only. Having read attentively most of the best books on the management of children, the subject seems to me unexhausted. I wish to furnish such advice as, at the age of 20, I should have received as a valuable gift to an anxious mother and attentive governess or nurse. I recommend nothing of which I have not witnessed the advantage.

PREGNANCY. It is imprudent, sometimes dangerous, to yield entirely, even to what appears an instinct of nature, when she deviates from the common track.

Women of costive habit generally suffer most from the "breeding" sickness! If a pregnant woman take much food and fermented liquor, and be sedentary, she may need bleeding, &c. but probably not if she eat moderately, drink chiefly water, and exercise on foot daily.

Numerous are the instances of the pernicious consequences of tight stays in pregnancy. When nature determines a woman shall retain in part the increase of bulk occasioned by pregnancy, nothing will protect her from it. All women I have known most eager in guarding against it, have been disappointed; others, who have never thought on the subject, are free from the augmentation even after having had ten or twelve children. I well recollect in my youth to have heard certain mothers blamed for carelessness to their daughters, "doomed to grow up as thick

round the body as kitchen-maids." I have afterwards seen those daughters with slenderer waists and finer shapes than any of their neighbors who had been squeezed and tormented from infancy. Beauty cannot be without proportion and health. If a girl be formed for broad shoulders and hips, as many handsome women are, nothing is so calculated to destroy her symmetry as to pinch in her body to the size of her arms.

PARTURITION. There are very few cases indeed in which a midwife, who has had the regular instructions, and well gone through the examinations, is not as capable as a man. In at least nineteen-twentieth of cases, leave nature to her work.

By-standers are apt to urge the lying-in woman to "help herself;" her consequent efforts only debilitate her and her offspring.

A woman accustomed to strong liquor may use it in labor, in smaller than her accustomed quantity. Some women spontaneously expel the afterbirth in five minutes, others in five hours after the child; premature extraction, even when not dangerous, is usually followed by severe afterpains and unnecessary hemorrhage.

The linen to be removed immediately after delivery may be contrived for removal without disturbance of the woman; further changes of clothing should be deferred, some hours.

Generally, silence, solitude, and darkness the first forty-eight hours are advantageous; a woman who has happily borne a promising child, is not liable to melancholy for want of society. If the bowels need assistance, a simple clyster, acting only on the parts that want it, is better than purgatives which unnecessarily act on the stomach.

SUCKLING. Put the child to the breast a few hours after birth. Nothing is more erroneous than giving porter, ale, wine, whey, or spirituous drink to a nurse: women accustomed to them may continue them, but not increase the quantity. Great thirst should be assuaged with water, milk and water, rice and barley-water, tea, infusions of herbs, &c. Let any additional food a nurse requires be cooling rather than heating, for her sake and her child's.

Children, whose nurses are irritable, are very liable to disorders of the stomach and bowels. A nurse, when disturbed by any circumstance, should delay suckling as long as she can conveniently, and till she has taken food. I knew a child, in perfect health, attacked suddenly, by convulsions, in consequence of suckling just after the mother had seen a person fall dead.

A handkerchief several times doubled over the breasts, and an oiled silk covered on both sides with linen and sewed at the inside of the shift, prevent the milk from passing through the nurse's outward clothes.

Few things tire more than bending to suckle on the lap; till the child can sit, or the mother can raise it to the breast, she should lie when suckling, at least the first five weeks.

To prevent soreness of the nipples, put a little brandy on them twice a day, during the last five weeks of pregnancy; and the six weeks after, just before and after suckling: before the child receives the nipple, gently touch it with a bit of fine linen, what may adhere of the brandy can do no harm. For five weeks after birth, the nipples should ever have a soft cover; the best is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch square of the envelope of a calf's kidney, (kept in rose-water, and changed whenever the child is suckled,) being first warmed between the hands or by the breath. Any sensation of cold it is of such importance to avoid as none can explain but those who have learnt by experience.

That sore nipples may have time to recover, the child must be put to them as seldom as possible, and to but one side at a meal. Of ointments or washes, I know of none so safe as honey of roses; it need not be washed off before suckling.

Clothes pressing on the breasts at any time during the period of suckling, may obstruct some milk-vessels, producing a sensation of tightness, a hard lump, painful, especially if touched, and, in a few hours, fever with violent rigour. The best thing is to go immediately into a bed well heated, and to drink plentifully of warm diluents to keep up constant perspiration. Under a bag of hot bran or a warm poultice of oatmeal, the hardness will sometimes be dispersed in twenty-four hours, especially if the child be strong and sucks often: a soft warm flannel, perforated for the nipple, should cover the breast while the child is sucking.

MANAGEMENT OF INFANTS. An ignorant nurse, supposing a new-born infant should of course squall, tosses and rolls it about without ceremony. A skilful midwife lifts it most gently, avoids every sudden motion, and tries by all means to save it from uneasiness: I have seen a midwife wash and dress a robust infant, without once making it cry. Extremely delicate children cannot always survive the being washed and dressed unskilfully.

The first wrapper of a new-born infant should be flannel lined with soft linen, covering every part but the face, or a cap of the same materials should be used. Thus covered, the child should remain still, on its side, two or three hours.

At Vienna, they put a new-born infant three or four minutes in a wooden oval tub, with enough tepid water to make the child float, and a little brandy or soap: then they rub it tenderly all over with a soft sponge, and dry it gently with a warm napkin. A napkin is thrown over the child as it is lifted from the water, and it is laid to be dried and dressed on a table, on a large square cushion covered with a warm napkin, and filled with chopped straw pliable to the infant's weight. If the first bath does not perfectly cleanse the skin, it should be repeated next day. The clothes fasten behind, and cover the breast and arms.

I have been convinced by repeated observation, children who have their bosoms and arms

covered till dentition is over, are not subject to those severe coughs and inflammations of the lungs which are, during dentition, fatal to many. In Vienna and many places on the Continent, no pin is employed in infants' clothing. The strings should be of narrow tape or flat bobbin, the knots being where they can give no uneasiness.—The swathe should be of soft linen doubled, two or three yards long, without seam or hem, with two strings at one end to go round the body and tie; its warmth and gentle pressure are useful under gripes or looseness.—The first shifts should be of fine cambric or very old linen, have broad, flat seams, and not be large enough to fall into plaits.

When the towels are wet with urine, the skin should be made dry before a fresh towel is applied; after a discharge from the bowels, the skin should be washed clean with sponge and tepid water.—Excoriation and inflammation of the creases of the skin of fat children, are likely to be prevented by frequently bathing it with spring or rose water; after drying it well, some farinaceous substance may be applied to the parts inclined to be sore: common hair-powder sometimes irritates. Starch powdered and sifted, or, in preference, powdered Peruvian bark to the skin, with attention to the bowels, and to the temperature of the skin, are probably the best remedies.—No alteration in an infant's clothing should be made when it is sleepy.—Two feet square of oil-cloth, with a towel under it, should be laid under the child in bed.

A young child should not have the light on one side, nor opposite the eyes, but from behind, yet not so as to cause the child to throw up its eyes, nor should it fix them long on any thing that glitters. Strong lights and brilliant colors are likely to produce inflammation of the eyes, which often pass for the effects of cold. The senses should be protected from too strong excitements, loud noises, rough and abrupt handling and movements, and pungent tastes.

To keep the head clean, a brush should be used, at first soft, then harder as the child advances. Fine combs are likely to produce the substance they are intended to remove, and to promote an inclination to eruption on the head. Combs of tortoise-shell, of bone, or ivory, should not be used, but of box-wood. Many pains in the stomach and bowels are relieved, in the first moments, by mere heat and slight pressure. We often quiet a young child in a violent scream, by laying it on its belly across one's knees, or otherwise changing its posture.

MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN. Ornaments and finery of dress are injurious to delicate, timid children who are continually reminded of the respect due to their fine clothes, and of the fear of spoiling them; and who therefore refrain from the exercise nature directs. Pretty children never look so well as when plainly drest; it is a pity to draw attention to those who are not pretty, by foolish ornaments.—The stockings may be fastened, by loops, to some article of clothing the point of support of which is on the shoulders.

No liquid may be more safely allowed to children out of meal-times, than sugar and water.

It has been frequently observed that apples and pears have passed through a child undigested, but not when eaten with bread. When chil-

dren dislike meat, it is the last thing that should be forced on them.

I never have seen softer or finer hair, than on girls who have had it short, like school-boy's, till their 10th year.

A child, growing sickly or crooked while shut up in a small house, in the narrow street of a large town, is more likely to recover in the country.

If a child grow round-shouldered from a careless habit of sitting, stiff leather, three inches broad, and long enough to cover the shoulder-blades, may be fastened to the waistcoat to remind the child not to stoop.—When the shoulder of one side becomes larger than the other, leave that arm in repose and use the other.

In no place do we meet with more deformed people than in Dresden, in Upper Saxony, where the custom is very common of dragging very young infants in little carriages without springs, over excessively rough pavement.

Children with hooping-cough should be kept as tranquil in their minds as possible; anger or fear are likely to induce coughing.

Should a girl, at the approach of her critical period of life, have languor, debility, difficulty of breathing, &c. a good physician's advice should be obtained without parade, and her mind kept cheerful. The idea of being a physician's patient sometimes creates disease in a frame agitated by the vicinity of an important revolution.—What are vulgarly called "courses of steel, forcing medicines," &c. are not likely to do good. At this period girls should not be too much confined to needle-work, but employed in more active business, have as much air and exercise as possible, and carefully prevent whatever may interrupt the circulation. Idleness is one of the greatest enemies to health of body and mind. For physical and moral welfare, all should have occupations suitable to their respective situation in society; such as nourish vain, silly, and ambitious notions, often injure health at this period. Uneasiness of mind is likely to occasion far more injury than drugs can remedy. Nature's progress may be impeded by untimely "remedies." Many extraordinary occurrences appear in the animal economy, which are not symptoms of disease. Months or a year may elapse without return of the evacuation; if the girl shew no other signs of indisposition, she does not need remedies. During menstruation, the human frame is specially sensible to hurtful impressions, from food difficult of digestion, from cold and damp.

Maladies are not so much under command of drugs as people ignorant of medicine imagine; complaints are more likely to be cured under too little than too much medicine. After a disease is subdued, a debility unnecessarily occasioned by the remedies often remains.

Scratches and slight wounds may be protected from air and cold by the skin of the shell of a raw fresh egg, which should remain till it falls from the wound. The part should be kept perfectly at rest.

To relieve the itching and diminish the swelling from chilblain, I learnt from an excellent physician the use of a little bran on a chafing-dish of live coals over which the hand or foot must be held a few minutes, to receive the thick smoke.

CURE OF EXTERNAL HYDROCEPHALUS BY PUNCTURE.

Dr Fenoglio relates the case of a child eighteen months old, who fell from a balcony fifteen feet from the ground: the left parietal bone was depressed, but there was no fracture, and not a drop of blood escaped from the nostrils; the left humerus, and the bones of the fore-arm, were fractured. The parietal bone resumed its usual form in a few hours. On the day following the accident, violent fever came on: the breathing was stertorous, and the skin was burning hot: the lower extremities were cold, and there was a trembling motion of the right hand. Bleeding by leeches was resorted to, and ice applied to the head; and the fever was relieved. At the end of the fourth day, however, a fluctuating tumor was perceived at the posterior fontanelle, and which, being pressed upon, disappeared, but returned when the pressure was removed. In proportion as this tumor increased externally, the child became more lively; but, as Fenoglio justly saw the danger which threatened, in consultation with Dr Giordano and Professor Rossi, it was determined to wait some time before any attempt was made to remove the swelling, considering it to be the product of extravasation only. After the seventh day, however, they changed their opinion as to its nature, and a small puncture was formed at its most depending part, and a corrupt and fetid lymph was evacuated. The infant immediately fell asleep, and slept for eight hours; but awoke at the end of that time with renewed fever, and the symptoms previously prescribed. Leeches were applied to the left foot, an opening medicine administered, and a strong infusion of digitalis ordered. (*Neither the strength nor doses of this infusion are mentioned.*) In the evening, the fever was diminished. The opening into the tumor was not closed, and a fluid escaped from it drop by drop, but so slowly, that it was only known by the moisture of the pillow.

The intellectual and physical faculties of the child improved rapidly; the bowels acted freely; and this amendment went on from day to day, so that the parents conceived her free from danger. At the end of the second week, however, on a sudden, the tumor ceased to discharge; there was suppression both of fecal evacuations as well as of the urine, and the former symptoms again recurred. Leeches were again applied to the ankles, castor oil given so as to purge, and the digitalis again had recourse to, with so good effect, that in about eleven days the hydrocephalus had entirely disappeared.

Another severe attack was experienced after this, preceded by vomiting, and accompanied with convulsions of the whole body, but which were relieved by the same means; and the patient got well.—(*Journal Universel, Mai.*)

NEW THEORY OF DIGESTION.

We have before us an Essay on Digestion, by Nathan R. Smith, M. D. which, although it contains but 93 8vo pages, discovers a strong disposition in the author to become a book-maker. He assures the public in the preface—that unfortunate portion of a book which rarely gets a reading—that he will not pretend to deny

that he has "a higher object in view," in presenting the above mentioned production.

We acknowledge that Dr Smith has exhibited both talents and industry, qualifications which invariably give a person, in any condition, a ready passport to our hearts; and we moreover feel a particular sort of pride in knowing our own country possesses men who can go to work fearlessly and analyze the writings of those prolific foreigners, who have so long nosed the world with hypotheses. Much as we admire his undertaking, we sincerely regret that such a circuitous rout should have been taken to arrive at the point which he seems desirous to lay before his readers. After premising the subject of *Digestion*, by an introduction of eleven pages—which by the by is well enough, though unimportant—he has wandered through forty-two pages more in bringing together familiar opinions, and in telling us what he intends doing in the sequel. The remaining part of the pamphlet, therefore, is all that need be studied to learn the Doctor's object, which, in fact, is nothing more nor less than the promulgation of a new theory. Had the quotation on the title page been carefully treasured up before this undertaking was commenced, it would not only have made a saving of several weeks of labor, but most effectually prevented some of those literary thumpings which there is great reason to fear await him from abroad. "It is no small part of science to be well acquainted with its real boundaries; but it is necessary also to know what it is which truly exists within these boundaries, and what it is which is only fabled to exist."

Like medical men in general, we have a terrible antipathy to great volumes *all about nothing at all*, and often feel peevish when our malicious stars throw a catch-penny pamphlet in the way, unless it has some evidence of originality. The pamphlet to which we allude, shows the author possesses an elevated mind, and we have consequently perused and reperused, with increasing satisfaction, every individual sentence which seems to be his own.

Instead of the old fashioned way of carrying on the work of digestion, first by the gastric juice, and secondly by the lacteals, conveying the chyle into the thoracic duct, whence it is supposed to be conveyed into the left subclavian vein, an attempt is made to explode the whole system at once—a system, too, which has really become venerable by age—and another substituted, much more intricate, far less philosophical, and quite as hypothetical as any thing which has gone before it. But here comes the prime argument itself, viz. that the process of digestion is effected by the capillary veins of the stomach, *originating in the villi of the mucous membrane, and terminating in the large branches of the vena portæ*.

Lastly, Dr Smith gives a few pages of objections to his own theory, which are somewhat ingenious. Were they carried a little farther, there would be absolute danger of overthrowing the whole fabric which he has been striving so earnestly to rear. It is lamentable that the author has never been made acquainted with Dr Batchelder's theory, the basis of a learned physiological work, the result of patient inquiry, which is now in a state of forwardness for the press, as his experiments will forever put Dr Smith's theory of digestion at rest—upon the shelf of forgotten lore. Were we at liberty to make extracts from the manuscript—which has met the approbation of the most distinguished professors of medicine in the United States, it could not fail of dampening the ardor of the indefatigable architect of this new theory of digestion, and of leading him to different con-

clusions in relation to the phenomena of many of the animal functions.

EXISTENCE OF PEOPLE WITH TAILS!!

From a volume just published in London, on Thibet and India beyond the Ganges, we select the following interesting article.

The supposed existence of a race of people with tails, has long been a favorite notion.—From the testimony of Capt. Turner, it may be inferred that this notion is current in Thibet; for the Raja Daeb, the sovereign of Bootan, related, that in the range of mountains eastward of his country, towards Assam, there was a race of men with short tails, so rigid and inflexible, that before they can sit down on the ground, they are obliged to make a hole to receive the sacral appendage.

The accounts of the earlier voyagers represented the natives of the Nicobar Islands as furnished by nature with a superfluous member of this kind. Köping, a Swede, who was lieutenant of a Dutch ship, asserts this to be the fact, and that not from the appearance of a single individual; for he assures us, that when at Nicobar, he was surrounded by a great concourse of people with tails, who endeavored to get on board the ship; but the crew, alarmed at the movements of these monsters, fired their guns, which scared their disagreeable guests.

Barchezwilz, a German traveller, in the sixth chapter of his voyages, gives the following account of a girl whom he met with in the Moluccas. "While I was in the Moluccas, I saw a female slave, of the race of the Papuas, who had a tail like a stag's, and when any one teased her, which was often done, she exhibited it. This slave was of the race of oriental blacks, of whom there are many in the interior of the Moluccas.

None of the eastern islands are so notorious for people with tails, as Formosa. Hesse, likewise a German, who went to Sumatra in 1680, saw a female who was provided with a tail, like a brute beast. Strauss, a Dutchman, is the third eye-witness, and he gives a too circumstantial account of one of the tailed Formosans, to leave any remaining doubt upon the subject. He saw a man with a tail one foot in length. This creature was taken for murdering a clergyman, fastened to a stake by a long chain round his body, around which a fire was kindled: the wretched creature was so broiled that the fat oozed from his body, long before his death. His shape perfectly astonished every person present; and particularly so, when he informed them that the men in his country were all tailed like himself.

Mindero and Gemelli Carreri, both saw a similar sight in the Phillippines. Such persons are also said to exist in the interior of Borneo. A Surgeon who had returned from the East Indies, assured Dr Hervey, who knew him to be a man of strict veracity, that he had himself seen a girl who had a tail a span long. Bath, Falk, and Rytschkow, relate that *kuiruli*, or tailed people, are always found in Turkestan.

It seems by no means improbable that such a freak of nature furnished the ancients with the first notion of satyrs, especially if, as we are told, monsters of this kind exist in those parts of Asia, situated much nearer to them than the Indian Islands.

REPORTS.

DANCE OF ST VITUS,

CURED BY THE CARBONATE OF IRON.

By C. F. VANDERBURGH, M. D. Liverpool, Eng.

ANN LINDON, an interesting girl of fourteen years of age, was seized (agreeably to her mother's description, while engaged in her usual occupation of selling vegetables in the New Market) with convulsive motions in the left leg and arm, to a degree that prevented her from walking. She dragged the affected leg after her: neither could she lift her hand to her mouth, without frequent attempts before she succeeded. She had tried numerous medicines and nostrums for upwards of three weeks, without benefit, but gradually became worse.

On the 1st of April, she consulted me. I found her laboring under confirmed chorea, distortion of the muscles of the face, violent convulsive motions of the head and extremities, with total inability to walk, or bring any thing to the mouth; the eyes were in constant motion; attended with an involuntary discharge of urine, likewise of saliva from the mouth, with loss of articulation; the abdomen prominent; bowels costive; pulse natural; appetite good. The involuntary motions continued during sleep; the mind was also considerably impaired.

Practitioners differ greatly in the treatment of this disease, some being advocates for electricity, others for depletion; and nearly the whole range of the Pharmacopœia has been exhausted even, in some instances, without success. But it is not my intention to tire my readers with a lengthened detail of the various methods of practice already adopted. I endeavored to conquer the disease by purgatives, so judiciously recommended by Dr James Hamilton, and ordered the following mixture—R. Magnesia Sulphat. ʒj. Infusi Rosæ ʒij. Infusi Sennæ ʒiij. fiat mistura, cujus cochlearia tria magna quarta quaque hora sumantur, with the intention of cleansing the primæ viæ of their acrid contents, and continued it for eight successive days. The patient had seldom less than four or five evacuations daily, with no other success than removing the prominence of the abdomen, and rendering the feces perfectly natural.

The 9th April I commenced giving half a drachm of ferri subcarbonas, four times a-day, in molasses; and, if the bowels were costive, a small wine-glassful of the cathartic medicine before mentioned.

On the 17th April, the convulsive motions of the lower extremities were less frequent; intellects much improved. Ordered the subcarbonate of iron to be increased to two scruples four times a-day, and the patient to be immersed in the river every morning; which, notwithstanding the coldness of the atmosphere, she appeared to enjoy.

On the 24th April, I perceived great amendment: the involuntary motion had subsided during sleep; the eyes and features became more natural; articulation improved; and, without help, she felt able to walk a short distance. The ferri subcarbonas and sea-bathing were continued.

The 4th May, the power of speech was perfectly regained; the involuntary motions nearly subdued. The same treatment was pursued, accompanied with as much exercise as possible;

and, on the 12th May, I had the satisfaction of seeing her perfectly restored, and able to attend to her former occupations.

P. S.—Agreeably to Mr B. Hutchinson's, of Southwell, mode of treatment, (to whom great merit is due,) I have also the pleasure of communicating, that I have given the ferri subcarbonas, in large doses, in two cases of tic douloureux. One, Mr Potter, of Liverpool, who had suffered upwards of two years, (the complaint was perfectly removed in the space of a fortnight;) the other, Mr Samuel, of the same place, who had only suffered a short time.

SINGULAR CASE.

In the Military Hospital of Bourdeaux, when the British troops occupied that town, a young soldier of the 53d was admitted a patient. His age was about 19, he was a Welchman, and the history of the case was this: He enlisted in a fit of drunkenness, a few months before, and from the time he was employed for Spain he was seized with the most profound melancholy. In landing at Passage, a port in the province of Biscay, he was obliged to be carried on shore; scarcely took any nourishment, and was incessantly talking of home, sighing, and lamenting his absence from his native mountains. The hills about San Sebastian so reminded him of Wales, that he almost wished he was dead before he left that country. His comrades observed that he grew worse on the march, and a little before the battle of Orthes he was taken into the Military Hospital, and from this was forwarded to Bourdeaux by carriage.

When the medical officer to whose charge he was consigned (Assistant Surgeon Magine) saw him, for the first time, at the hospitals, he seemed perfectly indifferent to what was going forward; would answer no question, nor even open his mouth; and his eyes were fixed in a vacant stare; nor could it be perceived that the eye-lids winked. At first the medical officer supposed that he was playing off a trick, not unusual amongst skulkers; and having ordered him a cathartic, directed the orderly of his ward to pay most particular attention to the patient's manner during the day and night, but not appear to take any notice, in order that, if he really was pretending, he might thus be discovered. The orderly slept in the next bed to him, and, on the following day, declared that he could scarcely hear him breathe, and that in whatever situation he was placed, he still remained until again moved by the orderly. On the next visit, the surgeon tried by every means in his power to make him speak or open his mouth, or even make a voluntary motion, without effect. The pulse was slow, and scarcely perceptible, evidently pointing out the true nature of the disease, and having learnt from the patient's comrades that he was in that lethargic state for eight days before, it was thought necessary to treat his as a case of real disease. Hot brandy was immediately ordered, and the surgeon himself, with difficulty, put some of it into his mouth, and he swallowed it, but the pulse did not rise. A little hot chocolate was then procured, as his comrades said he always seemed to like it, and the cup was placed in the patient's hand. At this moment, which was about ten o'clock in the morning, the surgeon was called to a different part of the Hospital to an accident, and was oc-

cupied in his duties until half-past two, when, on returning, he found the poor Welchman in the very same attitude, with the cup of chocolate in his hand, and the men in the ward declared that he never moved a hair's breadth since the chocolate was placed in his grasp—four hours and a half. Active treatment was now adopted according to the surgeon's own idea of the case: and that was, first, to administer a drastic purgative with some aromatics, and ordering a good portion of hot wine to be poured down his throat. On the next day he had the man stripped and brought down to the yard, where half a dozen men, each holding a pail of spring water, stood upon a height above where the patient was placed, and one after the other showered a full stream upon the top of his head. About the fourth pail he sunk off the chair, and was slightly convulsed. He was then removed back, and rubbed well by two strong fellows with coarse towels for at least half an hour. He was then put to bed and wine given him, when it was perceived that his pulse was much fuller, and there was a hot glow upon the surface of the skin. The orderly said he slept and snored during the night, seeming to breathe loud, which he did not before. The bath in a similar manner was repeated next day, with considerable advantage, for the man spoke several times and shed tears; the third day the same, with still more advantage; and so on till the sixth, when he conversed freely, looked florid in the face, and ate his provisions without assistance.

Care was taken during the whole of this time to impress his mind with an idea that he was ordered to England, and that he was to be discharged. In three weeks the poor fellow recovered; and to make his situation as comfortable as possible, he was employed as a surgery man in the Hospital; where he grew very healthy, and declared that he did not remember any thing since a short time after he landed in Spain, until his disease was removed.—*Medical Adviser.*

VARIETIES.

EXTRACT OF DIGITALIS.—The essential matter of this powerful plant has been obtained in a very concentrated state by M. Royer, Bib. Univ., by digesting the dried plant in ether, then filtering and evaporating the solution, re-dissolving the residue in water, and treating the solution with oxyde of lead, again digested in ether, and evaporated. It presented a brown substance, intensely bitter, and very deliquescent, and difficult to crystallize. The sedative properties of this substance were so powerful, that a grain dissolved in 200 grains of water, and thrown into the abdomen of a rabbit, speedily diminished the circulation, and the animal died without evincing pain, or any spasmodic action, though the nerves of a rabbit are very easily excited. Half a grain, dissolved in water, was also injected into the veins of a cat, producing death in the short space of fifteen minutes. A grain and a half inserted into the jugular vein of a dog produced death in five minutes. The arterial blood of all the animals exhibited the deleterious agency of the medicine, both in color and consistence.

VEGETABLE REMAINS.—The laborers engaged in excavating the bed of Wallasey Pool, for the purpose of making a wet dock, have lately discovered several fine stags' horns in the most perfect state of preservation, which is surprising, when we consider the length of time they must necessarily have been buried. It is probable, that what is now termed Wallasey Pool, was formerly part of a wood or forest, as in the neighborhood the remains of large trees are frequently found at different depths below the surface, and also out of the

ground. These vegetable remains are of a very dark color; some as black as coal, and so hard that the farmers used them as gate-posts. The horns were found nearly thirty feet below the bed of the pool. It is stated that the workmen have also discovered evident traces of an ancient road having existed twenty or thirty feet below the bed of the Wallasey Pool.

NATIVE OIL.—A Native Oil of of Laurel, possessing very nearly similar properties to distilled spirits of turpentine, is said to issue copiously on incision, from the stem of a species of laurel tree, which grows wild in S. America, between the rivers Orinoko and Parime, which is said hardly to exceed alcohol in specific gravity, to be colorless, and of an aromatic odor; if this be the case, it might become a profitable object of commerce.

MEDICAL PREMIUMS.—The Medical Society of the state of New-York, offer a premium of fifty dollars for the best essay "on the history, causes and treatment of whooping-cough." Also, a premium of fifty dollars for the best essay "on the history of goitre, showing in what sections of the United States it is prevalent; what atmosphere or topographical influence aggravates it, and by what remedy it can best be relieved or cured." Candidates to send their essays to Platt Williams, on or before the first of December next.

BALTIMORE MEDICAL COLLEGE.—At the annual commencement of the Baltimore Medical College, recently held, seventy-six young gentlemen received the degree of M. D. The prize medal for the best written *Latin Thesis*, was awarded to Thomas Jefferson Gassway, of that city.

MEDICAL HONORS.—Dr Physic of Philadelphia and Dr Joseph A. Gallup of Woodstock, Vt. have been elected honorary members of the N.Y. Medical Society.

TYPHUS FEVER.—The typhus fever prevails to such extent in one of the prisons of New-York, that, to prevent the spreading of disease, between forty and fifty vagrants have been discharged.

MEASLES.—This disease is now extremely prevalent in this city; it is generally, however, of a mild character.

PRIZE QUESTIONS.—The Royal Medical Society of Bourdeaux, have proposed the following questions.

1. Can it be permitted to inject drugs into the human system by means of the veins? What sort of drugs may be so administered? and to what diseases may this kind of remedy be applicable?
2. What are the faults and abuses practised in the hospitals and almshouses of Bourdeaux, with respect to modes of treatment, and the practice of medicine? and what are the means of remedying them?

The prize for answering these questions satisfactorily, is 300 Frs.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending April 16th; from the Health-Office Returns.

April 3.—Napoleon B. Sibley (at Rainsford Island). 9th.—Betsey Lamb, 47; William H. Bowditch, 14 mo. 10th.—Ellen Gyzelaar Price, 2 1-2; Sarah E. Lillie, 14; William Mewburg, 4 weeks; Abraham Butterfield, 14 mo; Rebecca Breed, 65. 11th.—Timothy Houghton, 27; John W. Worsley, 14 mo; Sarah Ann Hobbs; John J. Pickering, 22; William Spear, 42. 12th.—Rachel North, 34; William T. Rogers, 29. 13th.—Samuel D. Clapp, 2; John Turin, 25; John Harrington, jr. 19 mo; James McKinnie, 34; Catharine Ryan. 14th.—John Connelly, 16 mo; Minerva Rogerson, 36. 15th.—Ann Jane Kelly, 2; William Sims, 62; Margaret M. Masters, 3 mo; Susan H. Gulliver, 4. 16th.—David Elliot, 47. Dropsy, 1—Croup, 1—Measles, 5—Typhus Fever, 1—Consumption, 4—Lung Fever, 1—Teething, 1—Intemperance, 1—Suicide, 1—Sudden, 1—Fits, 1—Gravel, 1—Infantile, 1—Drowned, 1—Dropsy in the Head, 1—Pleurisy, 1—Small-pox (at Rainsford Island), 1.

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OBSERVATIONS.

DR COVENTRY'S ADDRESS.

The following article is extracted from a discourse recently delivered before the New-York Medical Society, by Alexander Coventry, M. D. President.

The proviso, in the 20th article of the act passed in New-York, 10th April, 1813, to regulate the practice of physic, exempting those using roots, bark, or herbs, the growth or produce of the states, from the regulations of said act, as now used or rather abused, is a disgrace to our statute book, and a stigma on a civilized people. It is unjust, as it is unwise. While the regular Physician is made subject to several years of study, a set of impostors, whose impudence is only equalled by their ignorance, are allowed to rob and murder the good citizens, under the pretence of using only herbs and roots the produce of the country, although it is well known that they deal in the most powerful drugs in the shop, however ignorant, as they must be, of their composition and qualities.

There is a kind of superstition, among our people as to Indian skill in physic; this is a fallacy—their whole skill consists in exciting a violent perspiration, and plunging into the nearest river. You may as well tell of an Indian mathematician whose knowledge of numbers extends to his ten fingers, as of an Indian Physician. The mist of prejudice is fast disappearing before our excellent system of education; the next generation will regard the present belief, in Indian and root doctors, with the same reverence, that we contemplate the faith, which our forefathers had in witchcraft and demonology. If there are any indigenous plants, that will stand a comparison with those in our *materia medica*, (the qualities of many of which latter have been tested by the experience of centuries,) some individual of the profession, will be found willing to distinguish himself by introducing it into practice. Men of experience, will prefer using articles whose powers are well ascertained, to tampering with new drugs, whose qualities are not established. We may recollect the ephemeral celebrity of several medicines, fashionable for a while, now not heard of. For most purposes in regular practice, the present *materia medica* will be found abundantly sufficient, and from the spirit of enterprise, and love of novelty of our citizens, there is no little danger of crowding our Pharmacopœias with useless and superfluous articles and those of doubtful import.

* * * * *

ENDEMIC FEVER.—Sometime previous to the chill, and varying according to circumstances, the individual will be sensible, of general lassitude, a dejection of mind, a reluctance of exertion, languor, his appetite forsakes him, he feels a disgust even at the scent of animal food, his sleep is disturbed with frightful dreams, the bowels are costive, there is a dryness and nauseous taste in the mouth, especially in the morning, a dull head-ache, an aching in the small of the back, and the pulse is slow and feeble. I have found it intermitting, and in a few cases imper-

ceptible. To a looker on, the countenance will appear dejected, of a dull sallow, sometimes of a leaden color, the eyes sunk deeper, the pupils somewhat dilated, the adnata of a dirty yellow. The back-ache increases in severity till the chill takes place, this commences with cold in the extremities, horripilation or goose-skin over the surface, and varies in degrees, from being so slight as hardly to be noticed, to such violence and continuation as to threaten the life and sometimes to terminate in the death of the individual. The cold stage however generally after a time, abates, and is succeeded by a burning fever attended with a flushing in the face, red and suffused eyes, a violent head-ache, a dry skin with a mordent heat, bounding pulse, a pain in the region of the stomach, nausea, at times efforts to vomit, but only a slimy mucus discharged. Should the attack fortunately be a paroxysm of an intermittent, after a time the skin becomes moist as the perspiration flows, and the febrile symptoms abate. If no diaphoresis takes place, the fever continues with violent head-ache, much thirst, great anxiety, a weight at the præcordia, and sometimes a slight delirium through the night. In the morning a remission often takes place, the fever is not so high, but the thirst, hot skin, and pain in the head continue; in the afternoon an aggravation of symptoms, and increase of fever again take place, and continue through the night, followed by another remission, the bowels during this period are constipated, and do not respond to ordinary doses of cathartics, and about the third or fifth day, the vomiting becomes bilious, a diaphoresis appears on the skin, and the patient experiences some relief.

This is the common course, in the milder cases.—An evident intermission, generally a termination of the most alarming symptoms takes place on the third, fifth or seventh day, after which the sick begin to convalesce. The debility is however much greater than could reasonably be expected from the short period of the disease, and the system does not regain its usual tone till the accession of warm weather in the succeeding summer; in not a few cases, dropsies or rheumatisms are the sequels of the attack, and these from the exhausted state of the system, often baffle the powers of medicine. In more severe cases among the residents, after the third or fifth day the adnata acquires a deeper yellow. This hue shews itself in the neck, spreading along the breast and shoulders, and at length occupies the whole surface—the vomiting and distressing nausea continue; from a bilious, the matter ejected acquires a brown color, the tongue sometimes has a brown coat and at times, a fiery red appearance; the alvine evacuations are black, at times sanguineous; a clammy sweat appears on the surface staining the linen yellow; the urine is in small quantities, and turbid, a slight delirium takes place, subsultus tendinum, and hiccup, succeed, the patient sinks into a coma, and death closes the scene, the corpse being invariably of a yellow, or rather deep orange color.

I have met with cases where there was no reaction of the system, but a complete prostration of the living principle, and in which the nerves appeared to have lost their irritability. These occurred chiefly when the disease was developed in cold weather; at which time the thoracic viscera seemed the seat of complaint.—There was an intolerable oppression at the breast, a great difficulty in respiration, and ultimately an expectoration of mucus streaked with blood.

When endemic fever attacks a stranger, newly arrived from a healthy climate, in whom the phlogistic diathesis is prevalent, although he at first complains of lassitude, coldness and nausea, and his pulse will be found slower, and skin cooler, than usual, these symptoms are soon succeeded by violent re-action, high fever, flushing of the face, redness in the eyes, intense pain in the head, throbbing at the temples, dry parched skin, oppression of the præcordia, an indescribable weight and burning sensation at the stomach, with nausea, the pulse full, bounding and generally strong—I say generally, for in some of these cases, the power of life seems stifled at once, and there seems no effort made by nature. There is frequently a white fur on the tongue, and when the patient drinks to quench an intolerable thirst, his stomach rejects the liquid, and repeated efforts to vomit succeed; at first nothing but the usual contents of the stomach are brought up—after considerable straining, the bile passes on in quantities, and in the most malignant cases, where the emesis obstinately continues, a substance resembling coffee grounds is at last ejected. The first paroxysm will continue twelve, twenty-four, or thirty-six hours, when a calm or remission succeeds, but this too often proves deceitful, and another storm succeeds; in these cases the urine is in small quantities, nearly obstructed, sometimes passes involuntary, and an obstinate costiveness prevails. Too often, during the violence of the paroxysm, obstruction or effusion, takes place in some vital organ, a derangement of structure follows, the skin becomes yellow, then orange and inclines to a mahogany hue. If the individual survives the fifth day, and a gentle perspiration appears on the skin, with copious discharges of dark colored fœces, some hopes of recovery may be entertained.

During a residence of five years in the lake country, I have no recollection of a case of fever that assumed the typhoid type; and I believe, where endemic fevers are prevalent, as in the East and West-Indies, or even in the southern states, particularly in the warm season, Typhus is of rare occurrence. Endemic fever in those districts where the causes exist, seems to run a short course, in which the patient either sinks or soon convalesces. It would seem that the deleterious air becomes necessary to the due support of those accustomed to it, for I have more than once observed that natives of swampy and unhealthy districts, were apt to droop and decay, when removed to the purer air of the hills, where endemic disease was not known; there seemed to be something wanting to keep

up excitement, like alcohol to the drunkard, or the habitual smoker.

I have reason to believe, when the foundation of disease has been laid among marshes, or arises from endemic causes, but the fever develops itself in healthy locations, that the paroxysm commences with more violent re-action, the disorder is apt to run a more protracted course, and towards the last, assume the appearance of Typhus. I am aware that gentlemen high in the profession, maintain that Typhus is a specific disease, and depends on a contagion sui generis; this was the faith in which I was educated, and most religiously believed. My first acquaintance with Typhus was in crowded and unclean abodes, or rather polluted dens, among the narrow and ill ventilated alleys of the city, where I have seen more than one family, of which the simple picture drawn by John Hunter, and quoted by Dr Good, is a faithful representation. In these cases I have witnessed one after another of a large family take to the sick bed, and had no doubt but contagion was the agent. But my former opinions have received some violent concussions from many stubborn facts, which have occurred to me during thirty years' practice among the spare population of a newly settled country, where I have met not a few cases of Typhus distinctly marked from the commencement, occasioned at times by excessive fatigue, exposure to wet and cold, &c. where no possibility of contagion could be traced. Nay I feel warranted in asserting that in the district where I now reside, it is not uncommon to see a fever commence with high arterial action, such as is generally denominated bilious remittent, and in a few days resume the typhoid type. There is little or no analogy between this fever, Typhus, and those diseases called contagious. The fever has no stated period, and I am much deceived, if I have not seen repeated attacks in the same individual—but I am travelling out of the record, my present business is with Endemic fever.

(To be continued.)

OLIVE OIL.

ITS INTERNAL USE IN GESTATION.

To the Editor of the [London] Monthly Magazine.

SIR—I shall be greatly obliged if you will allow me to present to the public the successful result of an experiment of truly vital importance. Chance has discovered to me that oil, taken frequently and for a considerable time, has magical powers in alleviating the pangs of child-birth. Perhaps a detail of this experiment will, therefore, be acceptable. One day I sat ruminating, almost in despair, on an approaching event, of which past experience had made me dread the recurrence. Vague rumors had reached me that oil was found beneficial in certain circumstances, in the mitigation of acute pains, but I never could learn why. Seeking for information on a subject so interesting, I turned over the leaves of an old medical book, written by the celebrated Dr Radcliffe, physician to Queen Anne. I wished to know in what diseases oil was prescribed, and wherefore? My attention was instantly riveted by the very curious remarks Dr R. makes in various places on the salutary effects of oily medicines in that painful disease the stone. I immediately determined to try its effects in my own case; and every day, for six months, I took a large table spoonful of Florence oil. Only a

mother can judge of my anxiety during this interval, or of my delight when, at the crisis, a considerable alleviation of the usual suffering was the happy consequence. The faculty will, perhaps, forgive a simple woman for daring to peep into their books, especially if a successful experiment has been the result. It is not, however, to be supposed that skilful practitioners would try on such authority new experiments on those whose lives are entrusted to their care. But as, in five different instances, and on two separate subjects, I have proved it to be as efficacious as it is a safe and simple remedy or alleviation, I venture to recommend it to professional adoption. The remembrance of the cruel fate of our dear and lamented Princess would alone be sufficient to give importance to every discovery and consideration connected with this subject. It is impossible to give here more explicit information on this subject, without departing from that reserve which, in a station purely private, best becomes our sex; but I cannot think that I should discharge my duty to society if I suffered the knowledge of a fact capable of such extensive application to perish with me. S.

[We think it necessary to state, whatever may be thought of the practical value of this communication, that we are in possession of the real and respectable name of the lady by whom we are favored with this communication; and have ascertained, upon authority equally respectable, that as on the one hand there are not even the remotest possibilities of any personal interests connected with the statement, so upon the other the facts described are considered in the circle of her immediate friends as of equal authenticity and importance.—Ed. Mon. Mag.]

Jan. 1825.

DR MIDDLETON.

This gentleman is no stranger to the Physicians of this country; his philanthropy seems to prompt him to great exertions in promulgating a new theory of consumption, as well as a new remedy for counteracting this scourge of the fairest portion of society.

We understand that Dr Middleton is a native of Staffordshire, Eng. where he became considerably distinguished for his ready faculty of discriminating diseases, and universally respected for a gentlemanly deportment and an amiable character. Having gained the confidence of men of science, he was in early life appointed chief Physician of an extensive hospital, and subsequently published an useful work in London, on Diagnosis and Prognosis. It being his misfortune to labor under an affection of the lungs, his thoughts were particularly directed towards the pathology of visceral diseases, and the loss of two promising children by pulmonary consumption, induced him to confine his studies exclusively to this subject. It appears all other professional business was laid aside, and his experiments at that period gave rise to the theory and treatment which he is now propagating, gratuitously, for the benefit of the subjects of that insidious and so often fatal disease.

Dr Middleton has been residing, we are informed, in Philadelphia, but is now travelling, and giving public lectures on his favorite theory, wherever he happens to make a stop. On Tuesday last, the Doctor gave a lecture in the Medical College, in this city, to a respectable audience, principally made up of Physicians. Dr Middleton is a venerable looking gentleman, about sixty years of age; rather bald, of small stature, and of a somewhat robust appearance. His style of lecturing is certainly very tiresome, his voice being too monotonous,

and accompanied too with a peculiar tone, which is rather disagreeable to one who has been accustomed to the eloquence of accomplished lecturers.

The discourse which he read at the College, occupied nearly two hours and a half, in which he not only gave a general plan of his method of curing phthisis, but also recapitulated the doctrines of the ancients and moderns; and in detailing the results of his own practice, showed the superiority of his prescriptions over all other remedies which have heretofore been resorted to by professional men. Experiments have abundantly proved the absorbing power of the lungs, and upon this fact is grounded the Doctor's plan of treatment. We heard him detail, with much pleasure, a series of his own experiments on different animals, which have all been corroborated by M. Magendie in France, and the cotemporary physiologists of other countries. The pulmonary veins absorb great quantities of fluid in so short a period of time, as to perfectly astonish us. Four oz. of water injected into the lungs of a sheep, by an aperture in the trachea, will be taken up in a few hours, without giving the animal any apparent suffering, and we are therefore at once convinced that a direct application of medicine to the diseased surface of the lungs themselves, when ulcerated, is both rational and warrantable in all species and in all stages of pulmonary consumption. The last week we had occasion to notice a new theory of digestion, by Dr Smith, who attempts to convince us that the villi of the stomach act with decidedly more activity in conveying fluids into the circulation, than any other set of vessels in the system;—but this is a most palpable mistake indeed, for Dr Middleton has proved beyond all doubt, that many medicines, either in substance or a fluid state, when thrown into the lungs are conveyed into the circulation with far greater rapidity. From this circumstance, he speaks decidedly against pouring medicines into the stomach, which has so long been practised, to relieve a local disease of a viscus in the thorax. Here again we feel the force of his remarks, and believe that topical applications immediately to the diseased organ, is far superior to any mode of treatment with which we have ever been made acquainted.

According to Dr Middleton's system, there are five particular kinds of consumption, which he arranges under the following heads, viz., hereditary; acquired; depending on the digestive organs; the casual, including catarrhal affections &c.—the fifth we cannot recollect, but remember, however, that there is but little variation in the treatment of any of them.

A block-tin case was exhibited, somewhat in the form of a coffee-pot—the only thing to which we can liken it—in which there was a cylindrical wheel of about seven inches diameter and two in thickness, on the side of which bristles were inserted, constituting a complete circular brush, easily turned by a crank on the outside of the box. This instrument is an *inhaler*. At the top there is a mouth-piece, which, when bark or other impalpable substances put inside of the cannister are set floating in the air by the wheel, conducts the preparation directly into the lungs. When the air of the box is sufficiently loaded with the substance to be inhaled, the patient holds the nostrils till he has made a full inspiration from the mouth-piece of the inhaler, and leaves it for a few minutes before another is made, according to the circumstances of his case: this is repeated three or four times a day, particularly after free expectoration.

Dr Middleton makes use of any of the following articles, either separately or combined, which, when re-

duced to a perfectly dry impalpable powder, may with the greatest benefit be taken from the inhaler into the lungs. Calcined sponge, dandelion or stramonium, for the dispersion of tubercles. He says that experience fully demonstrates, that in hereditary consumption, there exists from birth a tuberculous condition of the lungs. These tubercles may lie dormant for many years, till by a cold, or some other cause, they are roused into action, and then they speedily terminate in ulceration. He has known one patient expectorate three quarts of pus at once, and yet by the timely use of bark, &c. taken by the inhaler, completely recover. Good living, if not too stimulating, is one of the essential points to be attended to with all descriptions of consumptive people. Myrrh, bark, lapis calaminaris, &c. are the principle articles on which the physician must rely for a cure.

The Doctor believes that phthisis is contagious, and strongly enjoined it upon his hearers to be extremely cautious how they take the breath of persons laboring under affections of the respiratory organs. After the age of thirty, there is but little danger, ordinarily, of becoming the subject of pulmonary diseases.

His observations upon the climates of many countries, particularly France, Italy, Spain, England, Scotland, Ireland, &c., induce him to believe that the inhabitants of the latter unfortunate and degraded country, are more predisposed to consumption, than those of any other section of Europe, and he imputes the cause to a cold humid atmosphere, depending on the numerous bogs and stagnant waters with which most parts of Ireland abound.

Thus we have given an outline of Dr Middleton's theory and the results of his practice, at the same time that we confess our full conviction of the truth of his remarks. We have been informed that he will soon sail from this port for England, where his family reside, and where he contemplates publishing, immediately after his arrival, a treatise on pulmonary diseases, now ready for the press.

MEDICAL LITERATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

There have necessarily been many interruptions since we first proposed giving a sketch of the medical literature of the different States. Thus far, our observations have been of a general character, rather appearing like texts for future disquisition, than containing a minute detail of the progress or final prospects of the profession in any one State. Massachusetts requires a particular examination, as the rise of her Medical Institution, &c. members engaged in the practice of medicine and the examples which her societies have given, with respect to the mode and course of medical instruction, are original and eminently respectable, both at home and abroad. There are many men in the Commonwealth, like Walter the doubter, who are always questioning the propriety of measures which they cannot understand, and hence those regulations which have been adopted from time to time, for the protection of the vital interests of the profession, have oftentimes been unhesitatingly pronounced both arbitrary and overbearing upon the people. We have an invincible antipathy towards those sort of do-nothing folks, who, like Æsop's king log, always lie still when there is most need of their assistance.

Boston does not exclusively contain all the best practitioners or well-reputed physicians of the state; they are numerous, and many of them, from the remotest boundaries of the Commonwealth, carefully engaged in treasuring up the results of their experience, and contribu-

ting through the Journals, their opinions and their practical knowledge.

There have been many circumstances, which cannot readily be detailed, in former years, stimulating physicians, as a body, to indefatigable exertions. The improvements and discoveries of foreigners have been tested with assiduity, and whenever they have been found of use to the world, the physicians of Massachusetts have been amongst the first to give credit and the first to profit by them. A new impulse was given to the science of medicine, in the Colonies, by the revolution: before that eventful period, both surgeons and physicians were too dependent on their transatlantic brethren; but when hostilities commenced, and all communications with the mother country were interrupted, they were at once obliged to depend upon their own resources. Necessity invariably tends to develop new powers, and they were therefore at once placed in a condition, the most favorable to enterprise, and the most conducive to anatomical and physiological researches. Before the revolution, surgery, in reality, was unknown, but at the close of the war, the United States actually possessed some of the best operators in the civilized world.

Fortuitous circumstances bring men into notice, who, in the common routine of life, might have dozed away three score years and ten, without giving the least testimony of their ability to perform actions, which, when actually effected, excite the admiration and applause of the world. Such were the effects of the revolution, which not only made generals of men who supposed themselves destined to till the soil in humble life, but professors of the healing art from the same unpromising materials, who have secured a niche in the temple of fame, and whose names will be transmitted to posterity, loaded with all the veneration due their exalted characters.

Before that interesting period, which established the independence of the United States, there was no regular system adopted for the study of medicine. This was particularly the case in New England, where young men were considered *doctors* as soon as their instructors were satisfied they were competent to discriminate diseases. Schools of medicine were only heard of by way of travellers, and as for public lectures, their value was scarcely known on the American shores. A very few gentlemen of Boston, were enabled to visit foreign countries and learn the benefits of hospitals, who, on their return, not only laid the immediate foundation of fortunes, by their superior attainments, but also secured reputations which are really entailed upon their descendants,—and rightly too, in some families, for many of them possess both the talents, and industry of their distinguished forefathers.

Drs Warren, Jeffries, Lloyd, Jarvis, Danforth, Townsend, Rand, &c. may be considered the founders of the regular practice of medicine in this city, and from their exertions, arose the present superstructure in Massachusetts. Perhaps the late Dr Warren did more for the science of medicine than any one individual in the Northern States. His forte does not appear to have been in writing, as a small treatise on the use of Mercury is the principle work which he has left, but in teaching the minute and practical part of Anatomy and Surgery, he was without a rival in his day, nor have we heard his equal since. To a gentlemanly deportment, and an excellent and humane disposition, there were united in his character great industry, a strong love of his profession, and an ardent desire to benefit others, by his talents and experience. Dr Warren will be long remembered as one of the most useful men of the age.

SIMULATED DISEASES.*

Mr Hutchinson has related a great many curious instances of feigned diseases among our seamen, during the late protracted war, his situation, as Surgeon of the Royal Naval Hospital at Deal, having afforded him ample opportunities of witnessing, and often of detecting, such impostures. We shall glance at some of them.

1. *Ulcers.* These have been formed and kept up by first incising a piece of skin, and then applying a blister, quick lime, mineral acids, &c. In a limb which Mr H. amputated, he found a piece of copper coin imbedded between the gastrocnemius and soleus muscles. The man confessed that he had thrust this substance into the ulcer, about nine months previously! The usual security against such tricks, is a well applied bandage, from the toes to the knee sealed with wax; but this was found inefficient, as pins were thrust through it, and the ulcer irritated. A wooden box was then placed round the limb, which proved effectual in preventing such practices.

2. *Diarrhœa.* Our author has known diarrhœa, and even dysentery, induced in hospital, for the purpose of invaliding—sometimes destroying the life of the infatuated self-tormentor. The means most resorted to by our seamen, were mixtures of vinegar and burnt cork, by which some of the finest young men in the service destroyed themselves.

3. *Fever.* This is a disease which Dr H. has known to be feigned. He relates a case where a French prisoner swallowed tobacco, and covered his tongue with soap. The tobacco caused great rapidity of the pulse, but the matters ejected from the stomach smelled so strongly of tobacco, that the imposition was soon detected, and confession followed.

4. *Contractions of Hands, Elbows, Knees, &c.* These are very frequently feigned by sailors. They can only be detected by carefully attending to a variety of circumstances, and taking the impostors off their guard.

5. *Ophthalmia,* has been produced by putting irritating substance into the eyes, as alum, lime, tobacco, &c.

6. *Incontinence of Urine.* The best method of detecting this imposture, in our author's experience, was the exhibition of laudanum, unknown to the person, and, when fast asleep, to place a clean napkin under him. The napkin, of course, will remain dry during sleep, if the disease be feigned, but be soiled, if real.

7. *Strictures.* This disease was often feigned by naval officers, when they wanted to leave their ships, from any cause of dislike to the captain or others. Mr Hutchinson generally detected it by placing the person against a wall, so as not to admit of retreat. A bougie was then passed into the urethra, when, in many cases, much difficulty was experienced in getting it beyond the perineum. If suspicion of imposture be entertained, the mind of the patient is to be drawn off, if possible, and an opportunity taken of passing the bougie into the bladder.

Are we not liable to some error here, when spasmodic stricture exists, which may allow the bougie to pass occasionally, though it may be a troublesome complaint to the patient in general?

* Mr Hutchinson, Med. and Phys. Journal, February, 1824.

VARIETIES.

BOSTON MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of this society, constituted of all the regular practitioners of physic and surgery in the city, will be held at Concert-Hall, on Monday, the second day of May next, where the members will dine together.—At a meeting of this association, June 14, 1824, it was voted that a dinner should be provided at the expense of the association, but that no member should be assessed for defraying the expenses, provided he gave a written notice to the Sec'y one week before the annual meeting, that it was not his intention to dine with the association.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE.—The annual election of this society having been held, the following gentlemen were chosen officers for the ensuing year. President, Jno. B. Davidge, A. M. M. D. Professor of Anatomy in the University of Maryland, &c.—Vice President, Thomas R. Jennings.—Recording Secretary, John W. Lewis.—Corresponding Secretary, S. W. Roszell.—Examining Committee, Pheasanton S. Sugg, Emanuel K. J. Hand, S. W. Roszell, Geo. Tankard, Thomas R. Jennings, John W. Lewis.—Standing Committee, Thomas R. Jennings, Emanuel K. J. Hand, John W. Lewis.—Orator, Thomas R. Jennings.—The following gentlemen were elected honorary members of this society during the last session: John Walker, M. D. of Georgia; George Frick, M. D. of Baltimore; Robt T. Musgrove, M. D. of Baltimore; Edwin Dorsey, M. D. of Baltimore; Meredith Helm, M. D. of Maryland; Thomas Poole, M. D. of Maryland; Washington W. Hilt, M. D. of Ohio; Caleb Greenwood, M. D. of Georgia.

PHILADELPHIA MEDICAL SOCIETY.—Officers for 1825, and 6—P. S. Physic, M. D. President—J. Parish and S. Jackson, M. D. Vice Presidents—S. K. Mitchell and J. Bell, M. D. Corresponding Sec'ys—H. L. Hodge, M. D. Treasurer—John D. Godman, M. D. Orator—Alfred Drake, M. D. Librarian.—During the last session, Dr Matthew R. Smith of New-Haven, Conn. was elected an honorary member.

MEDICAL RECORDER.—The April number of this truly independent journal was received the last week, abounding in original articles of great importance to the practitioner. Perhaps there is no other quarterly publication on medicine in the United States which will more fully meet the views and approbation of the profession, generally, than the *Recorder*, and we therefore recommend it to all who are desirous of keeping pace with the medical literature of this and other countries. Subscriptions will be received at this office.

MONTHLY CHRONICLE.—This is published monthly, in the city of New-York, at three dollars a year, and we recommend it to our friends as a valuable periodical journal of medicine and surgery.

Contents of No. X. for April.—ORIGINAL. Thoughts on Phrenology—Medical Fees.—REVIEW. Two Reports of a Committee of the Regents of the University of the State of New-York, &c. &c.—SELECTIONS. Conversations of Disease—Dysentery—Striking Cures—Poisoning by Opium.—MISCELLANIES. College of Physicians and Surgeons—City Inspector's Report.—NOTICES. University of the State of New-York, &c. &c.

HARTFORD MONTHLY JOURNAL OF MEDICINE.—There has been much irregularity in the appearance of this work during the last year, as the number for January, 1825, has but just come to hand. We are gratified to learn, however, that Mr Huntington, the enterprising publisher, intends issuing two numbers each succeeding month, till that for the current month shall appear. The selections in No. 25, vol. 5, now before us, are judicious and valuable, and the character of the Journal only needs to be more extensively known to physicians, to insure increased patronage.

NEW MEDICAL JOURNAL.—A prospectus of a new Medical Journal has been issued in New-York, to be called the *Analytic Register*. It will be published on the 1st and 15th of every month, in an octavo pamphlet of sixteen pages, at three dollars per annum, payable upon receipt of the second number. The first number will be published as soon as sufficient subscribers

are obtained to warrant the undertaking. It is requested that the subscribers' names should be returned by the 15th of May next, directed to "the Editor of the *Analytic Register*, New-York."—However well qualified the editor may be for conducting a periodical work, we doubt the success of the undertaking, on account of the number of similar journals now published, which are really languishing for want of patronage.

ANOTHER PATENT LANCET.—One Jeremiah Dewey, of Chelsea, Vt. notifies the faculty that he has invented a peculiar and valuable *Lancet*, which, as a matter of course, has been patented. From his description of it, we cannot discover that it possesses any advantages over a score of others which have preceded it: however, he assures the public that the demands for the instrument are so great that he cannot supply them, and he therefore wishes to sell the right of making and vending them in any of the states in the union, excepting Massachusetts and Connecticut!

QUARREL AMONG DOCTORS.—It appears that the Legislature endowed the Medical College of New-York with about 70,000 dollars, and the Professors have expended nearly 30,000 dollars in eight years; and upon investigation it could not be ascertained what became of the money. The College has not even paid the interest of its own debts; and all this time they were receiving for their services annually about 3,000 dollars each, only for one hour every day, (in all five days.) Accordingly, the trustees thought it their duty to cancel the debts. For this purpose it was proposed that the receipts of the institution, with a part of their salary, should be taken to liquidate their debts. This resolution highly enraged the professors, who threatened to resign their offices, if the trustees were not turned out. Now it is proposed to take the management of the colleges out of the hands of medical men.

HOW TO EXTRACT MEAT FROM THE WINDPIPE.—Mr James Ogden, in a late Liverpool newspaper, in noticing an account of a man losing his life from a piece of meat being accidentally fastened in the trachea or windpipe, cautions the public against the fashionable folly of talking and eating at the same time, and adds, "But after the beef was so fastened in that situation, the man's life might have been saved by the simplest means—No crooked wires, or curved instruments whatever, could have been of any service. The patient either sitting or standing, an attendant should have inserted one thumb into one nostril, so as, by that nostril, to prevent the escape of wind; and with the pipe of a pair of bellows introduced into the other nostril, and the parts so pressed as to prevent the escape of wind by that orifice; one short, sudden strong puff would have remedied the case in an instant.

A woman in this city lately died in consequence of a bone sticking in her throat.—*N. Y. Telescope*.

EFFICACY OF NITRATE OF POTASS IN THE TREATMENT OF HEMORRHAGE.—Dr Zuccari, after various other remedies had proved unsuccessful, had recourse to pure nitrate of potass, and asserts, that it had been followed by continued success. He administered it as follows:—after a small bleeding, which was not always necessary, he mixed nitrate of potass in the quantity of from four to six drachms, in an ounce of gum-water, two or three table-spoonfuls of which were taken every hour; and refrigerant drinks, with light soup. The dose of the nitrate has been carried to the extent of an oz. in the same quantity of the vehicle above mentioned, without producing any inconvenience. The author of the paper adds, that he is about to publish a work upon the subject.—*Annali Universali*.

QUARTZ.—A transparent variety of Quartz which reflects no light, but appears perfectly black on its newly-fractured surface, has been discovered by Dr Brewster; who after immersing it in oil, of similar refractive power with the quartz, found this blackness to disappear, after it had resisted the action of various strong acids applied hot; but on taking it out and clearing it from the oil, its former properties perfectly returned. At length the doctor was led to conclude, that the blackness of the surface arose from the fractured surface, being composed of short slender filaments of quartz, so exceedingly small in diameter, as probably

not to exceed one-fourth of the thickness of the thinnest soap bubble, or .000,000,3 of an inch! and, from its minuteness, unable to reflect a ray of the strongest light.

ANCIENT RELICS.—In digging a cellar in the eastern part of this city, called the New Township, a few days since, four human skeletons were disinterred, presumed to have been of the aboriginal tribes which inhabited the country before the settlement of the whites. They must of course have been deposited above two hundred years, and yet the principal bones were well preserved. The skeleton of a head was entire, with a sound and perfect set of teeth. The bodies were buried in a sitting posture, and the heads about eighteen inches below the surface.—*Conn. Herald*.

ANATOMICAL AND PHYSIOLOGICAL LECTURES.—Dr J. V. C. Smith's Spring course of Lectures having recently closed at Williams College, he will be enabled to commence another the first of June at Amherst Coll.

SYLLABUS OF LECTURES ON THE INSTITUTES OF MEDICINE.—Professor H. H. Childs, of the Berkshire Medical Institution, contemplates publishing, in a short time, a syllabus of his annual course of Lectures.

QUINTESENCE OF QUACKERY.—From the Louisville, (Ky.) Advertiser, we extract the following modest advertisement, which is followed by an entire column of certificates, weaker than the cause they advocate:—"To the Inhabitants of Louisville. The undersigned respectfully informs the public he has removed to Louisville, and will turn his attention exclusively to king's evil, cancers, white swellings, sore legs, scald heads; wounds and bruises of all kinds; broken limbs; inflammations and mortifications. Not being a regular bred physician, &c. he takes this method of announcing that—

"Emetics given in small portion,
Will soon invert peristaltic motion;
The abdominal muscles called to action
While the pylorus undergoes contraction.

Emmenagogues are often said,
Will benefit a sickly maid;
For in their virtues they incline
To pass off by the uterine. JAMES M'CARTNEY."

A poor laborer in England having been obliged to undergo the operation of having his leg cut off, was charged sixteen pence by the sexton for burying it.—The poor fellow applied to the Rector for redress, who told him he could not relieve him, that time; but that he should certainly deduct it from the sexton's fees when the rest of his body was to be buried.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,
Ending April 21st; from the Health-Office Returns.

April 17.—Child of Moses Whitney; Betsey Ripley, 34; Thomas Enumons, 44; Elizabeth Kilpatrick, 49; Edmund Cleary, 60; Abigail Whipple, 18th.—C. J. Kendall, 3 mo; Catharine W. Nettson, 20 Louisiana Conant, 3 mo; George Bates Stetson, 3 19th.—Lois Perry, 5; Hannah Wilby, 43. 20th.—Sarah Bradley, 15 mo; Huldah Gayetty, 47; Sarah Ann Cutler, 8 mo; Chester Isham, 27; Romain Emerson, 19 mo.—21st.—John F. Peirce, 18 mo; Sarah Hale, 30; John Ashton, 54; William Pollard, 14 mo; Levi L. Whitcomb, 7 mo; Christiana Harlow, 17; James E. Thayer, 8 mo; ——— Gardner; Hannah Russell; Michael Walsh, 61.

Stillborn, 1—Consumption, 9—Pleurisy Fever, 1—Fits, 2—Measles, 8—Suicide, 1—Lung Fever, 1—Drop-sy, 1—Drop-sy in the Head, 1—Teething, 1. City poor, 1.

DIED.—At his residence at Springhill Farm, Greenwich, Rensselaer county, N. Y. Dr GORDON PERCIVAL, aged 76, formerly of East Haddam, Conn.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER:

Published weekly, at two dollars a year, in advance. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTE 104 the Proprietor, No. 47, Marlboro street, corner of Wai. St.—Street.

Subscriptions for the "Greenfield Gazette," published at Greenfield, Mass. received at this office.

OBSERVATIONS.

ENDEMIC FEVER.

FROM DR ALEXANDER COVENTRY'S ADDRESS.

(Continued from page 202.)

In the third division, which comprises the most malignant cases, the early symptoms are modified by the previous state of the patient; in the young and robust, after a slight chill, or only a crawling sensation of cold, a violent re-action commences, attended with high febrile commotions, face flushed, eyes inflamed, skin hot, pulse strong and frequent, and sometimes a pungent burning sensation, and an insupportable suppression at the præcordia, with ineffectual efforts to vomit.

When this tumult of the system is over, too often, evidences remain, that irreparable mischief has taken place in some vital organ, generally either the brain or stomach. In weak and delicate frames the period of excitement is absent, and from the beginning their symptoms agree with the collapse of the robust; the skin has a dark leaden appearance, feels cold and flabby, the pulse is weak and slower than natural, often intermitting; a torpor seems to have taken possession of the nervous system, the nerves have become insensible to the usual stimulants, the secretions seem to be arrested, the secreting glands refuse to perform their office, the urine is in small quantities, or totally suppressed, the primæ viæ will not respond to common doses, even the liver has lost its tone, and little or no bile is secreted. Meanwhile the patient seems insensible of the danger, he does not complain, except perchance of a bad feeling at the epigastrium.

Whilst the nervous sensibility of the system seems materially impaired, the power of voluntary motion often remains in a remarkable degree. I have seen a patient raise himself from the bed, stand erect, and even walk across the room, to the close-stool, with no perceptible pulsation at the wrist, his extremities bedewed with a clammy perspiration of the coldness of ice, and death depicted on his countenance. Even at the commencement of these malignant cases, there is something in the eye, in the face of the sick person, which cannot well be described. A lurid, wild, semi-delirious glare of the eye, a mottled purplish yellow hue in the skin, which to the experienced, predicts, too truly, a fatal event, excites our sensibility, sinks our hearts to despair, and sometimes creates a despondency not warrantable in our own profession. In fatal cases of this division, not unfrequently a dark colored matter is ejected from the stomach, often by eructation, and if the bowels become soluble, either dark venous blood, or this matter passes off involuntarily, and the patient sinks quietly into the arms of death.

Before entering on the treatment of fever, we may devote a few minutes to the best means of preventing its accession, and if I have not deceived myself, this may be frequently achieved by pursuing a proper course.

Whenever the resident of a country in which endemic disease is likely to prevail, feels indis-

posed, particularly in the sickly season, if he perceives any of the premonitory symptoms formerly spoken of, without loss of time he ought to send to a physician, whose duty it will be to prescribe a cathartic, and the best for the purpose is the usual composition of calomel and jalap. While under its operation, the patient should drink freely of some mild liquid, chicken water, beef tea, whey or barley water; the use of solid animal food should be omitted for a few days, during which a gentle diarrhœa should be kept up, by small and repeated doses of the same medicine, or should there be any danger of ptyalism, (always unpleasant and seldom necessary) the sulphate of soda may be employed after the first dose. I can recommend this common medicine from much experience, and esteem it only second in power to mercury in emulging or relieving the chylopoetic viscera.—After keeping the primæ viæ lax for several days, the patient will feel relieved, and may safely venture on the cinchona, of which three drachms or tea-spoonful may be taken every day. And this medicine may be continued through the sickly season, observing to avoid a costive habit, shunning the night air, and sparingly using animal food. The sulphate of quinine is an excellent substitute for the bark, and Croton oil may be used as a laxative.

A most respectable gentleman informed me, that while residing in South-Carolina, he became acquainted with a wealthy planter, who had not left his plantation in the sickly season, for many years, although all his neighbors emigrated annually during the hot months. The only precaution used was a small dose of Glauber's salts every morning, during the period of fevers.

The extension of the Union to the mouth of the Mississippi, has greatly increased the intercourse between the north and south. The independence of Spanish America will afford new attractions for our citizens to unhealthy situations. Those who intend to visit or remove to a warmer and more sickly climate ought to select that period of the year, which with safety will afford them a partial seasoning, previous to the access of the sultry season, in our southern states. The month of November is the best for the emigrant to arrive in; he will be partially acclimated by July and Aug. and if he does not wholly escape sickness, his attack will be less severe, and the disease of a milder type. To those whose necessary business compels them to visit a southern climate in warm weather, a certain kind of preparation would be of great service. For some time previous to, and during the voyage, the proportion of animal food should be lessened, and spirituous liquors avoided, the bowels kept rather lax, and if no particular idiosyncrasy forbid, calomel taken in small doses combined with jalap, scammony, gamboge, or the Croton oil. It would be desirable that the system should be under a gentle influence of mercury, on the arrival at the place of destination. About thirty years ago, a friend, a sea Captain, informed me, that in one of his voyages from New-York, when he arrived at the West-Indies,

every man of his crew were under the influence of mercury. The vessel lay some weeks, I think at St Pierre's, Martinico. It was a very sickly season, every vessel but his lost some hands, several their whole crews, but not one of his men had the fever. At the taking of Omoa, on the Spanish main, the British squadron suffered severely by fever, but it was remarked of a number of men employed to collect with their hands, some quicksilver spilt from the jars in a prize vessel, not one sickened, although surrounded by the dead and dying.

When a person in health arrives from a northern district, at a southern port, in hot weather, he ought to be bled copiously, and make use freely of cathartics; the efficacy of this plan was proved in a detachment of Dutch artillery, composed of robust young men. On their approaching the island of St Domingo, the lancet was used and powerful cathartics were given to every individual. At the expiration of four months, of one hundred and five men, only two had died. No precaution had been taken with the crew of the transport, consisting of twenty eight; of these eight had died at the expiration of the period.

In speaking of the treatment, I wish to have it understood, that my desire is to confine myself to endemic fever, which in my opinion requires a course of management different from what might be proper in pyrexia taking place in healthy countries, where transient causes operate on vigorous and robust habits, and the morbidly increased action principally constitutes the disease.

In districts subject to endemics, the tone or excitability, has been exhausted by continued and excessive heats, the temperature of the body is found three or four degrees lower than that of a stranger, and the resident is enfeebled by breathing for months a poisonous air. During the disease, the deleterious agent continues in full operation, and we must calculate on and endeavor to counteract its effects. While we endeavor to allay tumult in the system, we must not so far reduce the patient, as to leave him a prey to the combined influence of the cause, and the exhaustion that invariably succeeds over excitement.

A residence for some years in the Lake country, induced me to relinquish the practice which I had been taught, and seen employed by the first medical man of his age. I here found my favorite theory entirely at fault, and neither bleeding or sweating would restore health or prevent a yellow skin. The use of the lancet has been in and out of fashion by turns, in febrile diseases, for twenty centuries—now the Ægis of security, and now the infallible messenger of death—in discreet hands, a useful and efficient instrument, used without discretion, scarcely behind the brandy plan of Brown, whose closet speculations were for many years more propitious to American grave yards, than war, famine, or pestilence.

The present high standing of the lancet, may be in some measure attributed to the writings of the medical men attached to the European armies, who during a war of twenty-two years,

had ample opportunity of testing the usefulness of venesection, among the robust young men, natives of healthy countries, who composed the material of these armies.

The British army and navy surgeons also found depletion indispensable, to reduce the plethoric and inflammatory diathesis of Europeans, on their arrival at stations within the tropics.

If I might speak from some observation, I would state, that in much the greater part of the union, more caution is necessary in using the lancet, than in northern and middle Europe, where a milder sun, and purer air is prevalent. I have witnessed more than one case, where my opinion was, that the loss of blood accelerated the death of the patient.

In endemic fever, however necessary the use of the lancet may be in some subjects at first, a repetition is seldom requisite, as it may be productive of a protracted convalescence, or lay the foundation of dropsy.

Diaphoretics, from which I had formerly found much benefit in febrile cases, appeared useless in endemic fever, and experience taught me, that although the nausea seemed to indicate emetics, they too often aggravate that intolerable oppression at the epigastrium, prolonged the distressing retching, and increased the determination to the head, where the agony was already insupportable.

I will briefly state the plan I adopted after being taught by the experience of several seasons. When called to a patient, in the first place, I endeavored to discover the cause, and if possible have it removed, or the patient was taken to a greater distance from it; too often, neither was practicable, and sometimes the agent not cognizable. When the patient was still in the state of depression, if this was extreme, I commenced by exciting the vital powers, and found the warm bath, with frequent doses of ether, the most serviceable. With the latter I gave alternately portions of calomel; if the stomach was irritable, alone, or combined with cathartics, jalap, gamboge, or scammony; but if re-action had already commenced and was threatening the patient with serious injury in some vital organ, and if the patient was young and robust, I opened a vein and let the blood flow till the system felt the effect. When no local determination forbade, and the skin exhibited that pungent dry heat, cold effusion was had recourse to, and repeated as often as the heat of the surface seemed to demand. This is a powerful agent when judiciously used, and persevered in, if the state of the patient will admit of it, and when resorted to early, few febrile cases will be able to withstand it. Should circumstances not allow of its use, as in low cases, our chief dependence is then on mercury, which in fevers is the sheet anchor. This potent medicine acts in a double capacity, as an excellent cathartic and deobstruent, exciting and as it were emulging the chylopoetic glands, and at the same time raising a specific action in the system, which subdues and regulates those abnormal motions constituting remittent fever.

(To be concluded next week.)

DETECTION OF ARSENIC AS A POISON.

Dr Robert Christison has performed a most acceptable service to the profession, by publishing in a late Edinburgh Medical Journal, the re-

sult of an elaborate course of experiments, establishing simple and unerring tests, by which one quarter of a grain of arsenic dissolved in 8000 parts of either broth, tea, or coffee, with cream and sugar, porter, port-wine, &c., and taken into the stomach, and there mixed with the animal fluids, may be detected. A stream of sulphurated hydrogen gas thrown up through the suspected matter, previously diluted and prepared according to the directions which he gives, and with which, doubtless, every medical man will acquaint himself, is the agent by which this effective separation of the arsenic is performed; the precipitated matter is then dried, black flux added, and as much of the mixture inserted into a glass tube, closed at its lower end, but open at top, about three inches long and one-fourth to one-eighth inch diameter, as will fill it not more than half an inch from the closed end, which then is to be heated by the alcohol lamp; when soon the arsenic, if any be present, will be seen lining the upper part of the tube, with a metallic steel-like film or crust; the characters of which crust are so minutely described, and so evident, that henceforward, it is to be hoped, the difficulties of medical evidence will be removed, guilt more certainly punished, and suspicions removed from the innocent.

AFFECTIONS OF THE HEART.

By D. UWINS, M. D. London.

Than affections of the heart, no maladies are more formidable in their aspect or more difficult in their management; and their occurrence in the practice of the Reporter has been of late especially frequent. When the Physician is summoned to disorders of this organ, he is immediately called upon to put several questions to his judgment and discernment, to get a satisfactory solution of which implies no inconsiderable demand upon skill and experience. You have first to ascertain whether the disorder in question be of the heart itself organically and properly, or whether it be a mere sympathetic or symptomatic expression of a disorder in other parts. It is next of the utmost importance to ascertain whether the irregularities of the organ result from a want of propelling energy, from partial spasm in some portion of its fibrous structure, from an undue collection of blood in some of its chambers, from a species of inflammatory action either in its membranes or its substance, or from a fluid poured out into the pericardium or lungs. Then, again, it behoves the practitioner to investigate the evidence of ossification either in the blood-vessels or in the valves of the heart (a state of parts, by the way, very frequently connected with a gouty diathesis); and having ascertained the nature of the complaint, we find a further source of difficulty in fixing upon its precise locality, and this for a very obvious reason—that the different compartments of the organ exist constantly in such relative connexion, that one being brought into morbid being, the other naturally and necessarily partakes of the resulting disturbance. As to practical indications, also, how often does it become a question of the most imperative importance to decide upon promptly, whether stimulus, or a subduction of stimulus, be the demand of the moment; and inconsistent as it may at first appear, you often meet with cases where the fulfilment of both these indications is almost simultaneously required; where

to urge on the circulation to the extremities, or to equalize the flow of blood, is alone to preserve your patient from dropping into the arms of death; but where this measure is best accomplished, in the very first instance, by opening a vein, and thereby soliciting the vital fluid away from the centre and source of circulation. You afterwards add force to request, and in immediate succession to blood-letting, rouse, excite, and support. In this condition of things it is that the carbonate of ammonia often so happily tells as an urging and sustaining power. Many deaths from relapse might probably be prevented by the prompt employment of this important medicinal; and in gouty habits it serves, as the writer believes he has before intimated, a double purpose: for while its stimulating agency is exercised upon the nervous and fibrous, and vascular excitability, its chemical influence, as a corrector of acidity, is brought at the same time efficiently to operate upon spasms connected with, or perhaps actually produced by, acidities in the primæ viæ.

All individuals who are conscious of constitutional inclination to irregularities in the movements of the heart, ought to shun sedulously every occasion for calling their passions into more than ordinary excitement; this caution is especially requisite, since it is those who are the subjects of cardiac disorder, whose mental irritability is the most readily worked upon; but much more is in our power, in respect to the regulation of the mind, than some are disposed to admit. Let but the motive be of sufficient force, and the force of passion will yield; unless insanity have deprived us of the freedom of choice: and what motive ought to be more alarmingly sonorous to the ear of conscience, than the reflection that, by giving the mastery of our physical and moral constitution into the hands of passion, we rush into the embrace of disease, and even of death, with a sort of suicidal volition!

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF BROWN UNIVERSITY.

To the Editors of the Medical Intelligencer.

We notice in your very useful and interesting paper, part of an anonymous communication, from a correspondent, of this town, respecting the medical school of Brown University. As you will doubtless be gratified with a correct statement in regard to the lectures, and, as "it is your object to give the medical public all the intelligence in your power relating to the profession;" we transmit the following, to which, we hope you will give publicity through the medium of your paper.

That this school "must necessarily be limited in its number of students, in consequence of its location," we readily admit:—but that the number is, or has been, either limited or diminished, in consequence of a deficiency of talent, of either of its professors, we as readily contradict. Respecting the lectures, we can say the present course here, has been perfectly satisfactory; and, so far as we are capable of judging, the professors are men of the first respectability in point of character and talent, and eminently qualified to fill their respective stations.

Relative to the professor of anatomy and surgery, whom your correspondent *very modestly* forbears to mention, we, in justice to his talents and our own feelings, confidently assert that his lectures have given the *utmost* satisfaction. Having heard the greater number of those students,

who have attended lectures at other schools of the first respectability, express their opinions on the subject, we are happy to state that their views coincide with our own; and, had your correspondent consulted the feelings of the medical class, he would have been instructed to bestow the highest encomiums on the gentleman whom he has thus *silently* attempted to injure.

Respectfully yours, &c.

AMICI VERITATIS.

MEDICAL LITERATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

(Continued from page 203.)

In the course of the year 1781, Drs Nathaniel Walker, William Appleton, William Bailies, and twenty-eight other medical gentleman, petitioned the legislature for an act of incorporation, and were soon after made a body corporate, by the name of the MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY. There are but five of these petitioners now living, who are so far advanced in years, with the exception of Dr Welsh, as to be wholly unable to attend to professional business. Dr Holyoke, as nearly as we can recollect, is about ninety-four years of age, and Dr Danforth is but a little younger, although both appear to have the free enjoyment of their intellectual faculties. Dr Welsh is one of the most active Physicians in the state, and attends to the various duties which devolve upon him, as Physician to the Rainsford Island Hospital, with as much alacrity and promptitude as many who have just commenced the practice. His compensation is one thousand dollars a year, from the city treasury, and he has held the office upwards of thirty years in succession. Dr Dexter seems to have retired from the cares and perplexities of the world, and lives upon the fruits of his industry, in quietness. All five of the remaining original signers of the petition are wealthy, and are now enjoying that happiness which results from the exercise of prudence and economy, beloved and respected by all who have the pleasure of their acquaintance.

The next important step towards establishing the respectability of the profession, was the commencement of a regular course of lectures on Anatomy, Surgery, Materia Medica, and the Theory and Practice of Med. Dr Warren, sen. gave the first lectures on Anatomy and Surgery, in Harvard College; Dr Waterhouse on Theory and Practice, and Dr Dexter on Chemistry and Materia Medica, &c. not long after the charter was granted to the Medical Society of the state. Several years elapsed before the school was transferred to Boston, where it has gradually increased from small beginnings, till it now ranks among the first in the union, in point of respectability, though the number of its students has been somewhat limited. The lectures were given for a considerable time in a building in Washington St. since called Apothecaries' Hall; and after the erection of the Medical College in Mason St. the school may be said to have assumed its first regular form.

The Physicians of the city being particularly desirous of reforming the evils which had crept into the practice of Physic and Surgery, in the metropolis, joined themselves into a body, denominated the BOSTON MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, the laws of which oblige each member to observe all the requirements of the association. By this compact, empiricism is discouraged, uniformity prevails in their charges, and plain dealing and integrity distinguishes the association. An extensive library is kept at the college, which is accessible to the members, and which is continually increasing. There is scarcely a periodical work on medicine, of value, in the world, which is not taken here, and every

one has the privilege, at a reasonable price, of taking books, at stated periods, from this valuable collection.

The Massachusetts Medical Society is divided into five districts, each of which has its president, five censors for the examination of candidates for the practice of medicine, and for granting licences, and other proper officers. In each county there are a certain number of counsellors chosen, according to the population which the county comprises, or in proportion to the business which may fall to the share of the parent society, in any particular county. At present the number of counsellors is—in Suffolk county, sixteen—Essex, nine—Middlesex, nine—Worcester, seven—Hampshire, seven—Berkshire, six—Norfolk, five—Plymouth, three—and Bristol, three; making a Board of sixty-five, for the transaction of business. The fellows of the society elect the counsellors and censors, at their annual meeting in June, in the city of Boston, and on the day following, the counsellors elect from among themselves a president and other officers for the current year. The number of fellows belonging to the society is at present about nine hundred, embracing the name of nearly every Physician of respectability in the commonwealth. There are many licentiates, however, probably one hundred, who have not yet become active members: in order to become a fellow, it is necessary the applicant should have been a licentiate three full years, and during that period he should have been in the practice. A license costs ten dollars, which entitles the individual to all the privileges of counsel, the protection of law in collecting his debts, &c. without any further expense; but after he has been elected a fellow, he is obliged to pay the treasurer of the society three dollars annually, so long as he remains a member.

The library of the State Medical Society is kept in an elegant room in the medical college, and is well calculated to deceive a stranger, who could not but think, by looking at the books a few yards distant, that the library was immensely valuable; but, in truth, we are of opinion that the establishment is a very trifling concern. There are many old books of little value, and of huge dimensions; but a great lack of those modern publications which are so necessary for the guidance of the scientific physician. This defect seems to be known so generally to the fellows, that we sincerely hope there will be more money appropriated for the library at the ensuing meeting in June.

(To be continued.)

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.

Since publishing our remarks, the last week, on Dr Middleton's new method of treating consumption, we have had time to reflect upon the subject in all its bearings, and have also taken pains to gather the opinions of our professional brethren. Although we believe Dr Middleton deserves the applause of the public for his exertions, it remains for other Physicians to discover other medicines, which perhaps are still better adapted to the particular condition of the lungs of consumptive people. Instead of the apparatus which he has introduced for an inhaler, a bottle, a common glass cylinder, or a water-pot, will answer every purpose, and we therefore recommend it to Physicians to improve every opportunity of giving this novel practice a thorough and deliberate trial. A large number of Physicians of this city have provided themselves with inhalers, precisely like the pattern given by Dr Middleton. So far, we have understood, the experiments at the Massachusetts hospital are unsatisfactory: in private practice, however, the success is highly flattering. Consump-

tive people are too generally debilitated, and literally *doctored to death*, by continually loading the stomach with a variety of drugs, which they swallow with greedy avidity, in their anxiety to be restored to health. No such risk attends the introduction of medicinal preparations into the lungs themselves, and hence they may feel the most perfect assurance that they will suffer no injury by submitting to the Middleton treatment, under the cautious management of a discreet Physician, even if they derive no benefit.

The principle of this plan certainly promises much;—instead of pouring divers articles of the *materia medica* into the organ of digestion to relieve a disease in the organs of respiration, which must necessarily more or less derange the digestive function, we are directed to apply our remedies to the *seat* of the disease. The effect of medicines administered in phthisis has been manifestly indirect, and must affect the disease only secondarily, or after they have exerted their powers upon and deranged the natural functions of more important organs, viz. the stomach, heart, and brain, and cut off the only means by which the constitution can be sustained. By the inhaler this obstacle is surmounted; for we are satisfied that medicines when applied in the proper form, are more readily absorbed and conveyed into the circulation by the lungs than by the stomach;—it also does away the necessity of the system of starvation heretofore practised in this disease; for when the stomach is constantly plied with drugs of various kinds, the patient will have but little disposition to take food, or be but little benefited by it:—whereas, by means of the inhaler, medicines can be applied instantaneously to the disease itself, without interrupting the digestive functions, or those of other important organs.

STRIKING CURES.

All the world has heard of the *striking* cures performed by Dr Balfour of *percussive* celebrity. Gout and rheumatism have been so *pummelled* by the Doctor, that they dare not show their faces in the intellectual city. In fact, he seems determined to *strike* them off the nosological list of his immortal countryman—Cullen. These formidable enemies being placed *hors de combat*, the Doctor has attacked a still more rebel class—the *neuroses*, which appear, also, to fly before his powerful hands. The 34th case, lately published in the Medical and Physical Journal, affords a remarkable example of Dr Balfour's success. The patient, an elderly lady, had the vapours in an extraordinary degree, being sometimes so oppressed in her spirits and feelings, "that she could neither lie, sit, stand, speak, or listen to others"! This being the case, we confess we are at a loss to imagine in what position the Doctor fixed his patient for the operations of percussion and compression—unless it was in that of flying or swimming. He did manage, however, to apply "percussion to the spine, shoulders, and superior extremities." "The effects were an improvement of feeling and a buoyancy of spirits, far exceeding her expectations." "I explained to her," says the Doctor, "the principles of my practice, which she readily comprehended, and considered the information as a most important acquisition." We hope Dr Balfour's readers will comprehend his principles with the same facility as the old lady, who could "neither speak or listen to others," and that the information contained in this endless series of cases, will be considered by them also, as "a most important acquisition."—*Johnson's Quart. Rev.*

SPECIMENS OF ANCIENT PHYSIOLOGY.

Why are bald men deceitful, according to the verse, "Si non vis falli, fugius consortia clavi?"

Because baldness doth witness a choleric complexion, which is hot and dry; and choleric men are naturally deceitful, according to the verse, "Hiristitus, fallax, irascens, prodigus audax."—And therefore it followeth, "a primo ad ultimum," that bald men are deceitful and crafty.

Why doth a man lift up his head towards the heavens when he doth imagine?

Because the imagination is in the forepart of the head, and therefore it lifteth up itself, that the creeks or cells of the imagination may be opened, and that the spirits which help the imagination, and are fit for that purpose, having their concourse thither, may help the imagination.

Why doth a man when he museth, or thinketh on things past, look down towards the earth?

Because the cell or creek which is behind, is the creek or chamber of memory, and therefore that looketh towards heaven when the head is bowed down; and so that cell is open, to the end that the spirits which perfect the memory should enter in.

Why do such as drink much and laugh much shed much tears?

Because that whilst they drink and laugh without measure, the air which is drawn in doth not pass out through the windpipe, and so with force is directed and sent to the eyes, and by their pores passing out doth expel the humors of the eyes, the which humors being so expelled do bring tears.

Why hath a man two eyes, two ears, and but one mouth?

Because a man should speak but little, and hear and see much. And withal, Aristotle doth say, that the hearing in the light doth show us the difference of many things; and Seneca doth agree unto this, affirming that nature environed the tongue with a double cloister, and teeth, and lips, and has made the ears open and wide, and has given us but one mouth to speak but little, though we hear much.

Why doth a sharp taste, as of vinegar, provoke the appetite rather than any other?

Because it is cold, and doth cool. Now it is the nature of cold to desire and draw, and therefore is cause of appetite. Mark, that there are nine kinds of tastes; three of which proceed from heat, three from cold, and three from a temperate mean.

Why are some men ambo dexter, that is, use the left hand as the right?

By reason of the great heat of the heart, and for the not bowing of the same, for it is that which makes a man as nimble of the left hand as of the right; and without doubt are of good complexions.

Why hath a man above all other creatures a broad back that he can lie upon, which no beast can do?

Because a broad back doth answer a broad breast; if therefore a man should have a sharp back like unto a beast, that would be of an unseemly shape; and therefore it is requisite that he have a broad back.

Why do physicians prescribe that we should not eat too much at a time, but by little and little?

Because when the stomach is full, the meat doth swim in it, which is a dangerous thing. Another reason is, that as very green wood doth

put out the fire, so much meat choaks the natural heat and puts it out; and therefore the best physic is to use temperance in eating and drinking.

Why is it good to drink after dinner?

Because the drink should make the meat readier to digest. For if a pot be filled with fish or flesh without liquor, then both the pot and the meat is marred. The stomach is like unto a pot which doth boil meat, and therefore physicians do counsel to drink at meals.

How doth the leprosy proceed from the liver?

Because it doth greatly engender in the brain, and breed the falling sickness and apoplexy.

Why is he lean who hath a large spleen?

Because the spleen draws much water to itself, which would turn to fat; therefor contrariwise men that have but a small spleen are fat.

VARIETIES.

ANEURISM OF THE CAROTID ARTERY.—A poor woman of this city, in Summer St. under the care of Dr Morrill, the Dispensary Physician, has an aneurism of the right carotid artery, which extends from the middle of the neck, below the clavicle. The tumor equals the size of a coffee-cup, and on the whole, it is a very peculiar and interesting case. All feeling in the right arm is lost, and such is her debility, that an operation is by no means warrantable. We recommend those who are in the study of the profession, to improve this rare opportunity of examining the patient, as they will profit more by the visit, than by reading about aneurism for a whole month.

NEWLY DISCOVERED MUSCLE.—Dr W. E. Horner, of Philadelphia, some time since announced the discovery of a muscle which he called the *tensor tarsi*, situated on the lachrymal sac, arising from the os unguis; but it appears that Signior Gaetano Flajani, of Rome, calls the discovery in question, and satisfactorily proves that it was described by Haller, Duverney, Resomuller, and others, many years ago. *Exeunt Omnes!*

INVENTION.—A Physician by the name of Buller, residing at Hamburg, is said to have invented a new surgical instrument, by means of which he can amputate a leg in one second, and which has also the effect of benumbing the sensibility of the part by a simultaneous pressure, at the moment of operation, so that the patient in reality experiences no pain.

BRONCHOTOMY.—Dr Batchelder, of Pittsfield, has recently performed this interesting operation, successfully. Students under his care, have the advantage of witnessing a vast variety of surgical practice. The Doctor has but few equals in point of skill and adroitness in operative surgery.

MAL-PRACTICE.—A Mr Slater, says the Medico Chirurgical Review, recovered of a Surgeon 500*l.* for "unskillfully disuniting the plaintiff's leg after it was set;" which, it appears, was done to try an experiment.

NAVAL BOARD OF SURGEONS.—A Board of Naval Surgeons assembled at Philadelphia on Friday, for the examination of candidates for promotion and appointment in the Medical Department of the Navy. The Board consists of Dr Edward Cutbush, President, and of Drs Barton, Harris, Hoffman and Gorden. The Secretary of the Navy has directed them to examine—not only into the professional and scientific acquirements—but likewise into the *moral characters* of the candidates presenting themselves before the Board for commissions.

PROMOTION.—Dr Daniel Drake has been unanimously elected Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the medical school of Transylvania College.—The vacancy in the chair of Materia Medica, occasioned by this appointment, now remains to be filled.

NEW WORK.—Dr Hough, of Cincinnati, is preparing an abridgment of Good's Study of Medicine. T. Webster, Esq., Philadelphia, is preparing the same work in five volumes.

ACADEMY IN SICILY.—Some amateurs of natural science have just founded at Catana, in Sicily, an academy (Academia giornia di Scienze Naturale). Their object is to diffuse a taste for the study of physics, to remark and describe the products of Sicily, and to form a cabinet of indigenous and exotic natural history. It publishes, every six months, a volume of its memoirs. There has also appeared at Palermo, for some time past, a Journal of Sciences, Letters, and Arts.

EFFECTS OF DISAPPOINTED LOVE.—A poor woman, of the name of Hannah Metcalf, recently died in the Hornbury Workhouse, (Eng.) in the 70th year of her age, who took to her bed forty-five years ago, owing to a disappointment in love, and never rose from it to the day of her death. It is calculated that this pauper had cost the parish 500 pounds.

MEDICAL GRADUATES.—The Freeman's Journal states that one hundred and eleven gentlemen have recently received their degrees as Doctors of Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania.

MEDICAL REGULATION.—At a meeting of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, a catalogue of authors were enumerated which every student of medicine shall be required to study, besides attending two courses of lectures, before he shall become a licensed practitioner.

IMPORTANT TO THE BLIND.—M. Raques, of the Academy of Sciences, Paris, proposes to found a prize, for the discovery of a method of making the cornea of the human eye, transparent, when clouded by the effects of inflammation.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We have received several letters, alternately praising and blaming the medical school of Brown University; but as the complainant still keeps his name behind the curtain, we now positively assure him that his communications will never pass to a *third reading*, unless this disguise is thrown off. Surely, if his remarks are true, there can be no hesitation in signing his name.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

Ending April 30th; from the Health-Office Returns.

April 20.—Warwick Jones, 35. 23d.—Sarah S. Evarts, 10; Joseph Sharp, 6; Nancy Cassimore. 24th.—William Simpson; Edward Tuttle; Oliver C. Tileston, 34; Eliza W. Spring, 34. 25th.—John Pray, 6 mo; Hiram Bosworth, jr, 2; Eunice Ray, 82; ——— Dunavan. 26th.—James O'Neil, 14 mo; Caroline Pratt, 13 mo; Henry Tucker, 16 mo; Mary Thomas, 56; John Skinner, 13 mo; David Woodman, jr, 1 day; Susan R. Blair, 15 mo; Mary Clay, 32. 27th.—Child of Julia Cruft; Abigail Cassell, 54; Mary Tucker, 60. 29th.—Child of Darby Dunavan, 2 days; James Minzie; Alden Potter; Susan Ruff; Verta Maher, 44. 30. Mary McCleughlin, 14 mo; Charles B. Shurtleff 2 1-2; James Brailey, 46; Mary A. Richards, 2 1-3.

Consumption, 5—Lung Fever, 2—Measles, 5—Typhus Fever, 1—Old Age, 1—Stillborn, 1—Organic Disease of the Heart, 1—Teething, 1—Rheumatic Fever, 1—Quinsey, 1—Sudden, 1—Fits, 1. City Poor, 7.

DIED.—At Hallowell, Dr CURTIS, of Mount Vernon, Me. who put a period to his own life by hanging himself. What renders the act the more strange, is the fact that he was to be married to an amiable young lady, and preparation had been made for the nuptials.

In Sweden, Dr SWEDENSTIERNE, a celebrated mineralogist. He committed suicide with a pistol, leaving a letter attributing his conduct to an insatiable disgust of life.

In Montgomery county, N. C. by drowning, Dr JOHN A. WALLEY.

At Key West, March 27, Dr STILLMAN, of the U. S. Hospital at that place.

BOSTON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER:

Published weekly, at two dollars a year, in advance. All communications must be POST-PAID, and addressed to JOHN COTTON, (the Proprietor,) No. 47, Marlboro'-street, corner of Franklin-Street.

Subscriptions for the "Greenfield Gazette," published at Greenfield, Mass. received at this office.

OBSERVATIONS.

ENDEMIC FEVER.

FROM DR ALEXANDER COVENTRY'S ADDRESS.
(Concluded from page 206.)

I have at times been in doubt, whether the cathartic or alterative powers of calomel were the most to be relied on. The experience of many years has taught me to hail the appearance of mercurial action in the system, as an almost unerring harbinger to the safety of my patient. The presence or effect may be readily discovered by the pulse, the gums, or the breath before ptyalism takes place. This latter ought to be avoided, as troublesome and unnecessary, but the facility with which some constitutions are affected, will at times baffle the most cautious treatment.

In such cases as will not admit of the mercurial treatment, I have derived much benefit from free and continued purging. It was the observation of nature that led me to this course. I had observed that persons seized with diarrhoea or even cholera morbus, generally escaped a run of fever, and instead of checking a lax I promoted it, especially in the autumnal months, and when nature seemed reluctant or defective, the aid of art was called in. In the variety of medicine used for this purpose, I found the most benefit from a solution of the sulphate of soda in cinnamon water, with a small quantity of tartarized antimony, desiring the patient to drink plentifully of barley or tamarind water.

The patient instead of being exhausted by a course of purging, will find his strength increase. This I have experienced in many instances, one of which I shall take the liberty of mentioning.

In 1814, a militia man from Montgomery county, contracted endemic fever at Sacket's harbour. On his return, unable to proceed, he stopped in the vicinity of Utica. I found him worn out with disease, his eye yellow, countenance bad, pulse rapid, tendons playing, and a slight delirium. He had also the fluxus castriensis, but was unable without assistance, to walk to the stool. I left him twelve powders composed of camphor, nitre, calomel, and a small quantity of tartarized antimony. Being called to a distance, and detained, I did not see him again till the expiration of thirty-seven hours, when I was not a little surprised to find my patient sitting at supper, apparently in health, and eating with tolerable appetite; the delirium and subsultus had disappeared, and he was able to walk without assistance. The directions had been religiously followed, a powder every 2d hour, although every dose had in 10 or 15 minutes operated as a powerful cathartic. Had I been present the medicine would not have been continued, and probably the person would not have been able to proceed as he did the next morning for his home.

In the Annals of Medicine, vol. 1, Dr Bruce states that he has often seen a man carried out perfectly delirious, with subsultus tendinum, and in the state of the utmost apparent debility, who after one or two copious evacuations of this kind,

has returned of himself composed and astonished at his newly acquired strength.

To the justice of Dr Hamilton's remarks on the use of purgatives in fever I could bear the most ample testimony, and it was with great satisfaction I first perused his excellent work.

Where no objection exists, the preference should be given to calomel as a cathartic; in many cases it is the only medicine that can be employed for that purpose, as the stomach will from excessive irritability reject every other, but seems incapable of raising this, and if given in moderate and repeated doses, it will find its way along the intestinal canal. The catharsis must be kept up, till the dark fæces are replaced by those of a more natural color, and should the system in the meantime afford obvious signs of being duly imbued with the mercury, that medicine should be omitted and other laxatives used, as the neutral salts in an infusion of senna, the ol. ricini, or a preparation of the Croton oil.

It will be understood that it is only at the commencement of the fever, that we strongly advocate the mercurial treatment; after a certain period the system appears to become insensible to this medicine, and towards the latter period it seems injurious. When the febrile action has subsided, and the fur disappears from the tongue, the strength of the patient must be supported by wine, and for this purpose genuine Madeira is the only suitable kind; in a short time to this may be joined the cinchona, either in decoction or in the admirable form of the sulphate of quinine, united with some pleasant aromatic as cinnamon. After endemic fever, there is generally a voracious appetite, and more relapses occur from over eating than from any other cause.

In illustration of the treatment I prefer, in the case of strangers from healthy districts, when exposed to endemic fever, I will state a case which occurred in my practice. On the 10th Sept. 1815, I was called to visit I. I. a young man of a full habit and robust form, who had never been sick before, he had just returned from the Cayuga marshes, having been a boatman on the Seneca river. His face was flushed like scarlet, eyes red, terrible head-ache, and full bounding pulse. A vein was opened in the arm, and nearly 2½ lbs of blood flowed before he grew faint. He now took a full dose of calomel and jalap, but the heat and re-action re-appearing in about an hour, he was placed on a chair before the door, and two buckets of water from a spring poured through a sieve on his head; the shock was great, he went to bed with a chill; orders were given to repeat the effusion should the heat return; next morning he was evidently better, had got some sleep, but the skin being still hot, and the pulse rather strong, 20 oz. more were drawn from the arm, and in about an hour after, the cold effusion. Repeated and strict orders were given to repeat it if the skin became hot and dry, his cathartic had operated and he continued to take lessened doses. On the third day he was convalescent and the mercury stopped.

In several cases which appeared similar to that stated, I have found much benefit by opening the temporal artery, and allowing 20 or 30 oz. of blood to flow, but this quantity will not be obtained without the caution, not to cut off the vessel, till you wish the flow to stop. Where there appears much determination to the head, 16 oz. taken from the artery will give greater and more immediate relief than double the quantity from the arm, and avoid the danger of inducing debility by repeated venesection at the arm. I have found arteriotomy particularly useful in those attacks where the danger arose from the fever assuming a typhoid state. It will often remove the oppression on the brain, and does not exhaust the strength. When an European or a native of New-England on their arrival during the summer or autumn, at a place subject to endemic disease, is attacked with a fever, a free use of the lancet is indispensable. The re-action must be kept within bounds, or some vital organ will be irrecoverably destroyed; but this must not be resorted to till the state of re-action commences, either by the efforts of nature, or by the aid of medicine.

In the third or last division which may be justly denominated malignant, where the state of the patient and the power of the agent combine to entitle the case to that appellation, we meet with disease in some instances, where the powers of life succumb to the overwhelming forces of the agent, and nature yields without a struggle. These cases are marked with a feeble pulse, a difficulty in breathing, an intolerable agony and oppression at the breast, a purple hue on the surface. Under these circumstances, our first indication is to rouse the energy of the system, and to restore nervous sensibility, for this purpose the warm bath holds the first place, to be followed by friction with volatile liniment combined with tincture of cantharides, and at the same time exhibiting internally, doses of sulphuric ether, alternated with potions of calomel and jalap, occasionally assisted by enemata. If we are so fortunate as to arouse the vital energy, and induce a brisk catharsis, we may entertain some hopes of the recovery of our patient, the calomel ought to be continued, and the catharsis kept up till the evacuations lose the dark hue, and the appearance of mercurial action in the system affords reason to believe that the disease is conquered. In these low or sinking cases the lancet is a dangerous expedient, and I have witnessed fatal effects from its use.

In other instances of this class after a slight chill, or only a crawling sensation of cold, in stout and robust habits, a violent re-action commences, and if this is not immediately moderated, some organ essential to life is irreparably injured. Those which most frequently suffer are the head and stomach.

Should the brain be threatened, which may be known by the deep flush of the face, the redness of the eyes, beating of the temples, intense head-ache, and not unfrequently delirium, the temporal arteries ought to be opened, cupping

or leeches applied to the temples, the cold effusion repeatedly used, the head shaved and cold, or if procurable iced water kept on the head, and calomel freely exhibited. Should the stomach appear to be the organ in danger, copious depletion at the arm, cupping or leeches at the epigastrium, followed by an extensive blister over that region, and here the tepid or cold bath might be preferable, and mercury introduced by friction on the surface, the blue pill by the stomach, or even by enema.

* * * * *

A city favorably situated may be kept more healthy, than an equal extent of surface in the country. In the former, putrescence may be at all times prevented; in the latter vegetables must grow, and will occasionally decay. For several seasons there has been less sickness in Philadelphia than in the adjacent country. Charleston in South-Carolina has long been the summer residence of the planters.

ANIMAL PUTREFACTION.

M. Haguenot, professor regius of physic in the university of Montpellier, delivered, at a public meeting of the Royal Academy of Sciences of that city, on December 27, 1746, a memorial which greatly concerns the citizens' health, viz. *against burying in churches*. It was prohibited, by a law of the 12 tables, to inter, or even to burn a dead body within Rome. The wisdom of this law, though a Pagan institution, caused it to be strictly observed during the first twelve centuries of the church; and its disuse proceeds from pride and covetousness. M. Haguenot enters the lists against such a pernicious abuse. The zeal of a patriot and the knowledge of a consummate Physician, shine in his book; is it not then an amazement that this error should stand its ground against such forcible remonstrances?

Far be it from me, says he, to beat an alarm, and disturb people with needless apprehensions; but, as a lover of mankind, I can conceal nothing which calls for redress, and a well-grounded precaution.

It is no new thing that persons have been struck with sudden death at burials in the vaults of churches; but the misfortune which happened at *Montpellier* on Aug. 17, 1744, is more dismal than any other account of that kind. Three persons were stifled, one after another, in one of the common vaults of our Lady's church at *Montpellier*: the two last having gone down into it to succor the first; and many others, whose good will made them venture to relieve him, owe their survivance to some preservatives which they had taken before-hand; yet this did not prevent its being fatal to one. At last they were obliged to drag up the three carcasses with grappling irons; their clothes had a horrible stench, were damp, and covered with a yellow and green matter, not unlike rust.

M. Haguenot was appointed by the magistrates to examine the qualities of this deadly vapor, which had thus instantaneously destroyed three persons.—He observes, 1. That, as soon as he had caused one of these vaults to be opened, it emitted a noisome fume, more or less strong, according to the temperature of the air. 2. That this fume so quenches all burning bodies, as not to leave any the least appearance of fire. 3. That, in a minute or two, it strikes dead the most lively and vigorous animals, even cats. 4.

That the malignity of this fume is very lasting; since, at its exhalation out of a bottle, which had been filled with it six weeks before, its effects were equally violent.

M. H. asserts, that the infection, which dilates itself upon opening a vault, may occasion epidemical, and even pestilential distempers; for such putrid exhalations naturally tend to communicate a putrefying motion in digestion, and sanguification, which produces pestilential distempers; and, this will mostly happen, when these exhalations have not been dispersed by the wind. And accordingly, it has been observed, that a plague has often been preceded by a long calm.

The hurtful effects of these corrupted vapors, are too frequently attested in history. Ambrose Pare relates, that the Agenois, with the adjacent country, was desolated by a pestilence, brought on, by exhalations from a pit, in which a great many dead bodies had been thrown. Pompey's army was ravaged by a plague, occasioned by leaving dead horses unburied. The putrefaction of less animals, and even of insects, has had the like lamentable effects; nay, sometimes effluvia, which have been expelled by earthquakes, or even the bare stirring of the earth, in digging, has been productive of the same extensive destruction. All nature, then, seems to cry aloud, that interments in churches are a nuisance to society.

M. Haguenot concludes his Essay with a recital of imperial constitutions, and decrees of councils, enacted against the same error, which his humanity has induced him to expose; and he hopes that the magistrate's concern for the people's welfare, concurring with the clergy's zeal to restore the primitive discipline of the church, will exterminate a practice so indecent, so unsufferable, and also so destructive.

ABSORPTION.

The *Absorption into the Veins and Arteries*, and consequent circulation through the bodies of animals, of whatever substances, either liquid, gaseous, or in a state of vapor, as kept for a space of time, in immediate contact, either with the external or the internal surfaces of living bodies, was, sometime ago, the subject of an elaborate course of experiments and observations, by Dr F. Magendie, at Paris, the details of which were read before the Academy of Sciences; from which it results, that the rapidity and copiousness of the absorption is dependent on the fulness of the blood circulating at the time through the absorbent vessel. In a plethoric state, no absorption, or a very faint one, takes place; but on beginning to empty the vessels by bleeding, absorption commences and increases, accordingly as the plethora is removed. It appears, from the very curious experiments of Dr M., that absorption does not take place in consequence of any attraction or affinity between the blood, and the absorbent matters; and probably, as appears to us, the effect may arise in consequence of what M. Venturi denominated the *lateral communication of motion*, exerted by columns of moving fluids; especially as the doctor found the absorption not to be dependent on the life of the animal. We strongly recommend the perusal of M. Magendie's journal to every medical man: a translation of it appears in No. 8 of *Silliman's Journal*.

CONTAGION—QUARANTINE.

Dr Maclean, who has so much distinguished himself by perseverance, courage, and humanity, in his arduous inquiries on the subject of contagion; who has exposed himself, in various climates, to all sorts of losses and perils; lately delivered a lecture at Liverpool on this most important topic, which is just now published. Every thing that we have heard, more and more satisfies us that he is right in his opinion, that the received doctrine respecting contagion is altogether erroneous, and that the entire system of quarantine, with its enormous cost and highly injurious consequences to trade, ought to be wholly abolished. It is clear to us that, if there were no crooked interests at work, this abolition would take place at once; but when office and patronage are at stake, what signifies the general advantage? A perusal of this single Lecture would, we suspect, satisfy any intelligent man, that our Quarantine Laws, at least, are at once both absurd and mischievous. Sooner or later, the whole system will fall before Dr Maclean's well-directed battery, and the public will then know to whom it is indebted for its better knowledge, as well as for its relief from a most pernicious burthen.

ANACHRONISM.

We always receive the communications of the writer of the following article with pleasure. He is a perfect book of reference, and both capable and willing to correct our mistakes, like an old friend. There has scarcely been a transaction in the medical world, during the last sixty years, with which he is not familiar; and his advantages and sources of information, besides the active part which he has taken in giving character to the medical profession of this country, gives interest to every line which comes from his pen. The editor was the writer of the piece to which *Historicus* alludes, whose only apology is the bad memories of those of whom he received the information, and he therefore hopes no invectives will be indulged, as no wrong or injustice to the characters of the illustrious dead was for a moment intended.

For the Medical Intelligencer.

Prudence must regret a considerable portion of the article in your 50th No. on the *Medical Literature of Massachusetts*, as it tends to impose on the ignorance of the young. The arrangement of the names will in part show the design of the writer, which is to elevate an inferior above his superiors. Dr LLOYD, the father of them all, except one; and the *grandfather*, if we may so speak, of the man placed first, is ranked directly after his pupil Dr JEFFRIES, and his *grandpupil* the late Dr John Warren, for he was pupil to his brother Dr Joseph Warren, who was killed at Bunker Hill, and who was himself pupil to Dr LLOYD, as was also Dr Rand.—But who was Dr Lloyd? Dr JAMES LLOYD was a skilful and successful Physician, a very able Surgeon, and a perfect gentleman; after being well educated in this country, he visited the hospitals in London, and in the course of his great practice in this town, performed most of the capital operations in surgery.—His pupil Dr Jeffries, was a very well instructed anatomist and Physician, and of great experience. Dr Jarvis was, like Dr JOSEPH WARREN, a man of superior talents, but, like him, suffered politics

to diminish his usefulness as a practitioner. Dr Rand was also a valuable Physician.

The neighborhood of Boston had an uncommonly skilful Physician in Dr Marshall Spring; whose reputation stands on the solid foundation of the gratitude of thousands. Dr William Aspinwall, celebrated as an inoculator, was a well educated and successful Physician of the Pennsylvania school. The late Dr John Warren, professor of anatomy, made good and judicious use of the manuscript lectures taken by Dr Aspinwall, when at the Philadelphia school; who loaned them to him several years.

It is to be lamented that the writer of the article in question, had not been better informed of the state of the art, particularly surgery, prior to the revolution. He appears to be one of those who confound the *healing* art with the *cutting* art.

There are some other assertions in that article seriously objectionable, being deviations from a true state of things, which may have had their origin from misrepresentation.

HISTORICUS.

MEDICAL LITERATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

(Concluded from page 297.)

The periodical works on medicine, in this state, have been extremely limited. The New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery, is by far the oldest, and almost the only one which has been published, and such has been the patronage bestowed upon it, that it has now reached a very respectable age and standing. There has been some fault found with this journal, by gentlemen at the south, within a few years, and one Philadelphian had the fearlessness to *wonder* why so stale a thing was taken at all. Since the new arrangement in the editorial department, there is certainly a display of more original matter in its pages; in the department of reviews, there has been an exhibition from time to time, of as much discrimination and caustic as the occasion required. Its circulation is said not to be extensive at present; of this, however, we are not prepared to say, but sincerely believe it a judicious and valuable compilation of facts and observations.—Many years since, there was in existence a Medical and Agricultural Register, conducted by Daniel Adams, M. D. a distinguished arithmetician and Physician. But the mingling of medicine with essays on farming, rather destroyed the utility of it for any particular class of readers, and hence it came to a premature death, the volumes of the Register, however, may be read with much profit, although constituted of a farrago of every thing.

The Physicians of Massachusetts are chiefly distinguished for their clinical skill, although many of them have given evidence of ability as writers. Drs Bigelow, Gorham, Warren, Shattuck, Hale, Coffin, Hayward, Ingalls, and Ware, of Boston, Waterhouse of Cambridge, and Thacher of Plymouth, deserve the thanks of the profession for what they have already accomplished, and more may yet be expected from such indefatigable and enterprising scholars.

Since the erection of the Massachusetts Hospital, one of the most splendid edifices of the kind, perhaps, in the world, the facilities for obtaining a thorough knowledge of operative surgery, have been continually augmenting, and should this valuable establishment continue to be devoted to the public good, and never be prostrated for the personal aggrandizement of a few individuals, the advantages which will accrue to medi-

cal students will be almost incalculable. The Insane Hospital, under the superintendence of an experienced and judicious Physician, Dr Wyman, has already been instrumental in doing as much good as could reasonably be expected, if the infancy of the institution is taken into consideration. It is located at Lechmere Point, in Cambridge, but in full view of the metropolis, and where it commands a prospect of all the principal scenery within a circle of many miles.

The number of medical students at the Boston school is highly flattering, and shows the confidence which the public have in their present mode of education.—Before a student can become a licensed practitioner of medicine or surgery, the law requires that he shall have studied three full years with a fellow of the medical society, if he reads his profession in the state, and he also must have attended, or is recommended to attend, one course of lectures; and before he can be admitted to the degree of doctor of medicine, in addition to three years study, he must have attended two complete courses of public lectures, and pass a satisfactory examination before the faculty of the school at which he is permitted to graduate.

REPORT.

REMOVAL OF A TUMOR FROM THE FACE,

BY JAMES WEBSTER, M. D. OF PHILADELPHIA.

Communicated by A. NAUDAIN, M. D. Middletown, Del.

The subject of the following case, a female about 32 years old, belonging to Mrs R. near Middletown, came under my observation with a tumor, occupying nearly the whole of the face.

The account given by the family is, that it commenced about fourteen years ago, by a gradual enlargement on the nasal bones, at, or near their junction with the cartilage. It was at first so slow in its progress, that it did not attract her notice, but was at first pointed out by strangers visiting in the family. It continued to increase slowly but constantly, without pain or soreness, until within the last six months, since which time its increase has been very rapid, and attended with occasional lancinating pains through it.

The extent of the tumor was as follows; it reached upon the os frontis, about an inch above the temporal extremity of the superciliary ridge upon the right side, extended obliquely downwards across the forehead partially covering the left eye, to the lower part of the external angle of the left orbit; it protruded about three inches from the surface, and extended downwards on both sides, so as completely to cover the right eye and both cheeks—the right side of the tumor was more prominent and irregular on its surface than the left, and was of a uniform hard bony feel. As far as could be ascertained by examination, or inferred from the progress of the disease, I was induced to believe that the tumor did not extend into either antrum maxillare.

About twelve months ago an abscess formed on the left side of the tumor, which was opened and quickly healed, and for some weeks previous to the operation there had been a considerable discharge of very foetid, sanious matter, from several small ulcerations.

Neither the sense of smell, nor the power of respiring through the nose, were much impaired; nor did her general health appear to suffer much, until the last of November, 1824. On the 29th of that month, an alarming hæmor-

rhage took place from a small opening in the left side of the tumor, which continued till syncope came on; from that time her health began to decline most rapidly; she had frequent and severe pains in the head, loss of appetite, great prostration of strength, so that she was scarcely able to sit up for a few minutes at a time; in the course of a few weeks, however, by the use of the ordinary tonic remedies, her health was in some degree restored.

Having frequently mentioned to herself and the family, that her only prospect of recovery depended upon a surgical operation, she consented to submit to it, and, at my request, Dr Webster, of Philadelphia, visited her for the purpose.

As Dr W. was perfectly willing to undertake the operation, the nature of the case was fairly explained to the patient—that the only possible chance of her recovery depended upon a speedy operation, and that even this might not prove successful, or might even be fatal,—the operation was accordingly performed by him on the 3d of January, 1825, in the presence of Doctors Wait, Veazey, Green, and myself, in the following manner:

The patient being seated on a chair and held by two or three assistants, a triangular incision of about an inch and a half in length was made on the upper surface of the tumor, with the base of the triangle towards the mouth, and its apex towards the frontal bone; this flap was carefully dissected back, the incision was then carried around the whole circumference of the tumor, leaving as much of the sound skin as was thought necessary, also the lower part of the nose, with the nostrils, in order that it might be connected with the flap formed in the first step of the operation, so as to form a nose; finding that the base of the tumor was so extensive, and that its attachments over the right eye were so intimate that it could not be removed at once, an incision was made deep into its substance, and one half removed at a time; an opportunity was thus afforded of detaching it from its connections with the tunica conjunctiva of the right eye, to which it closely adhered, at the same time of dissecting out a portion which had protruded into the orbit; it was now found that the base of the tumor extended over both nasal bones, the lower part of the frontal, the nasal processes, and nearly the whole anterior surface of the upper maxillary bones, beyond their connections with the malar bones on each side, from the whole of which it was dissected as quickly as possible, removing at the same time the periosteum from which it seemed to have its origin; the bones to all appearance were healthy. As the tumor itself was perfectly insensible, this stage of the operation gave little or no pain, and was attended with but trifling hæmorrhage, in fact, but little blood was lost during the operation, as it was thought prudent, from the necessarily extensive dissection, to secure the vessels as they were divided.

The triangular flap, which was formed in the first step of the operation, was now brought down, and secured to the lower portion of the nose, by means of sutures, thus forming a perfect nose; the lateral portions were also united to the sides of the flap by interrupted sutures, and the whole secured by adhesive strips and mild dressing. In the course of a few days, ad-

hession had taken place over a considerable portion of the wound; suppuration, however, took place on the right side of the face, attended with a discharge of healthy pus; this soon filled with granulations, and in less than a month the whole was perfectly healed.

Upon examination after the operation, both corneæ were found to be opaque over nearly the whole surface, occasioned by the continued pressure of the tumor, thus nearly depriving the patient of sight.

The tumor was of a hard, cartilaginous consistence, evidently partaking of the nature of medullary osteo-sarcoma, so ably described by Sir Astley Cooper.

It is now nearly three months since the operation was performed, a considerable portion of both corneæ has become transparent, and the general health of the patient is completely established, so as to render her useful as a house-servant; but I regret to say, that the disease is again making its appearance, not in one particular spot, but over the whole extensive base from which it was removed. In this state of things, it is not judged proper to repeat the operation, as it is greatly to be feared that the bones are intimately involved in the disease, thus rendering surgical efforts unavailing.—*Med. Rec.*

VARIETIES.

REMARKABLE CASE OF THE ABSORPTION OF THE RIBS.—There is a person of middle age, in this vicinity, who has nothing but the muscles and common integuments to cover or defend the heart on the left side of the thorax. The heart's pulsation can be seen distinctly, even pressing itself beyond the anterior side of the sternum.—This is a great curiosity to the anatomist, and strikes those who are unacquainted with the beautiful mechanism of this never tiring organ, with astonishment—as it seems, on viewing this phenomenon, as though every succeeding diastole would burst the heart, and sever the thread of life in an instant. The facts in relation to the case are simply these:—When the individual of whom we are speaking was a child, by some strange accident all the ribs about this part were badly fractured, but instead of uniting again, by a deposition of ossific matter, the absorbents took away the injured bone and none was afterwards formed, thus leaving the heart entirely unprotected. Even the puncture of a pin at this tender point would be his death, and yet he is apparently so careless of his existence, that he never has provided himself with any pectoral defence beside his common clothing.

NEW-HAVEN MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At an annual meeting of the NEW-HAVEN COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY, held at the county house, on Monday, the 18th inst. Eli Ives, M. D. was appointed chairman, and Charles Hooker, clerk. The following gentlemen were reported as new members: Drs Harvey Norton of Salem, Joel Canfield of North-Guilford, Andrew Castle of Woodbridge, Purcell Cook of Wallingford, and David Harrison of Branford. Drs Abiram Stoddard of Derby, Asahel Hall of North-Haven, Noah Stone of Oxford, and Asa H. King of Branford, were also admitted as members.—Dr J. Titsworth read a sketch of "A General History of Medicine in the State of Connecticut." Dr L. Parker read a dissertation "On the Varioloid disease." The following communications were then made,—“Several cases of the Effects of Lead,” (verbally) by Dr E. Ives—“Mr Whitney's Improvements in the construction of Catheters, with some remarks,” (verbally) by Dr J. Knight—“A Treatise

on Burns and Scalds,” by Dr V. M. Dow—and “Two Cases,” by Dr C. Hooker.—Communications prepared by Drs T. P. Beers, A. French, I. Harrison, and R. Webb, were deferred for the next evening.—Drs I. Goodsel and I. Jennings are appointed to read Dissertations at the next meeting—for which meeting every member is requested to prepare some communication.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.—The Censors of this Society, for the first medical district and for the Society at large, will hold their statue meeting in the Medical College, on Thursday, the 26th instant, at half past 3 o'clock, P. M. for the purpose of examining candidates for the practice of Physic and Surgery.—Gentlemen desirous of being examined, are requested to apply to John Dixwell, Secretary of the Board, previously to the day on which the Censors meet.

PHYSIOLOGY.—It is well known that those who study physiology and acoustics have always been and are even still puzzled to explain the natural laws by which the throat produces the tones of song. One party maintains that the upper part of the throat acts after the manner of a wind-instrument; while others represent the folds of the larynx as strings. It never appears to have been supposed, that any other manner of explanation was possible. However, in the first number of the new periodical “Cecilia,” which is published at Mainz, there is an article by Gotfred Weber, in which he proves, that the throat neither acts like a wind nor like a stringed instrument. That both these kinds of explanation are evidently in opposition to the best known acoustic principles, while the most striking analogy exists between the vibratory motion of the strings of the throat and the oscillation of sounding lamella, as for example, the tongues of the reed quaver, or tongue-pipes in the organ, and particularly with that register of the organ which has been called for centuries the *vox humana*.

TEMPERATURE OF THE GLOBE.—Le Baron Fourier, Perpetual Secretary to the French Academy, has just made known his important disquisitions on the temperature of the celestial spaces and the planets! a full account of which will appear in a forthcoming number of the European Review. Among other facts of the highest importance, the author has demonstrated that it would take more than 30,000 years before any perceptible diminution of heat could take place on the surface of the earth; and that, from the time of the Alexandrian school to the present time, that diminution had not exceeded 1-310th of a degree.

This is not only the *ne plus ultra* of mathematical demonstration; but it is also very satisfactory for us to learn, from such high authority, that our old planet is likely to be habitable for at least 300,000 years to come!

SARSAPARILLA.—M. Galileo Paliotta, an Italian Physician, has recently discovered what he conceives to be the active principle of Sarsaparilla, to which he has given the name of *parigline*. It is obtained by an elaborate process. Its characters are as follows:—it is white, pulverulent, light, unalterable on exposure to atmospheric air, of a bitter austere taste, slightly astringent and nauseating, and of a peculiar odor. Concentrated sulphuric acid decomposes it, but diluted sulphuric acid is neutralized by it, by which it forms a sulphate. All the acids unite with parigline, forming various salts. It has a sedative, and more particularly a diaphoretic property; it exerts its influence principally on the lymphatic system, and therefore answers all the indications of the sarsaparilla.

PRIZE QUESTION.—The Athénée of Medicine of Paris held its General Annual Sitting on the 25th January, 1825. After having awarded the prize of 300 francs proposed in 1823, the Society offered for competition a prize of the same value for the best memoir on the following subject:—“To establish, on positive facts, the anatomical, physiological, and pathological relations that exist between the skin and the mucous membranes.” The prize will be awarded at the General Meeting of January, 1826.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—Dr Roget is now lecturing on comparative Physiology, before the members of this celebrated Society.—Dr Gordon Smith, a distinguished physician, has excited great interest in London, by a

course of lectures on the application of the Medical Sciences to purposes of National Economy. We intend presenting our readers with their introductory lectures in the first No. of the third volume.

GENUINE ANECDOTE.—A short time since, a respectable Medical Practitioner, not a hundred miles from Ludlow, was called up in the night by a laboring man, residing at a few miles distance, to attend his wife, who was in childbed. Mr W. who had often attended under similar circumstances, without obtaining any remuneration, asked the man who was to pay him. The countryman answered that he possessed five pounds, which, kill or cure, should be his reward. Mr W. consequently paid every attention to the poor woman, who, notwithstanding, died under his hands. Soon after her death, Mr W. met the widower at Ludlow, and observed that he had an account against him. The man appeared to be greatly surprised and inquired for what? On being informed, he replied, “I don't think I owe you any thing;—did you cure my wife?” “No certainly, (said the accoucheur,) it was not in the power of medicine to cure her.”—“Did you kill her then?” said the countryman. “No I did not,” was the reply. “Why then, (said the countryman) as you did not either kill or cure, you are not entitled to the reward,” and walked away.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.—Having had the pleasure of seeing our list of subscribers increase during the last year by several hundred names, we have relinquished the plan of raising the price of subscription. Besides this, we have made arrangements to procure from England several of the most approved English periodical works on medicine. We are therefore enabled to promise our subscribers the earliest intelligence of the numerous practical improvements in the healing art which are made on the other side the Atlantic, as well as increased activity in recording and distributing all domestic occurrences that will be useful to the practising physician. Our foreign journals will arrive in season to enable us to make use of them early in our 3d volume; and that the *home* department of our paper may be the more valuable, we solicit from the faculty in this country, a free and frequent communication to us, of any interesting cases, morbid dissections, methods of cure, and pathological descriptions of any uncommon or imperfectly understood disease, prevailing complaints, or medical history of their vicinity, as well as the result of their observations and reflections, on subjects relating to the healing art. Such communications will be esteemed valuable, and meet with prompt attention from the Editors of the Intelligencer.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, Ending May 6th; from the Health-Office Returns.

April 28.—Abigail Safford, 4. 29th—George N. Frothingham, 13 mo; Joseph W. Parker, 4. 30th—Sophronia Brigham, 24; Elizabeth L. Newcomb, 12 mo. May 1—Rachel W. Baldwin, 7 mo; Nathaniel Fletcher, 52; Priscilla Pinkney, 17 months; Thomas Chamber, 45; Daniel O'Brien, 27; John Mahurin, 48; ——— Edson, 19 mo. 2d—Catharine Reed; John Monson; Mary Susan Peverally, 10 mo; Deborah Matthews, 52; Betsey Cook, 35; ——— Jordan, 7 mo. 3d—Francis B. Dummer, 16 mo; Daniel Cook, 35; James Grady, 44; James McConnell, 9 mo; Joseph Eaton Stack, 5; Sarah Thompson Wiley, 4. 4th—Cotting H. Duggan, 14 mo. 5th—Samuel John Bowden, 2; Josephine Augusta Bender, 3; Elizabeth Hopkins, 100 years and 4 mo; Elizabeth Carroll, 56; Otis Turner, 55. 6th—Gridley Bridge, 45; George W. Lord, 25; Eliza Child, 2.

Measles, 14—Fits, 1—Lung Fever, 4—Pleurisy, 2—Fever and Ague, 1—Apoplexy, 1—Inflammation in the Bowels, 1—Consumption, 2—Old Age, 1—Paralysis, 1—Intemperance, 1—Insanity, 1. City Poor, 3.

DIED.—In London, in March last, Dr CHARLES YARNOLD, aged 45, a celebrated Physician, and son of Mrs Elizabeth Y. of Weston, Mass.

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B. P. L.-Bindery,
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